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# Saipan Tribune

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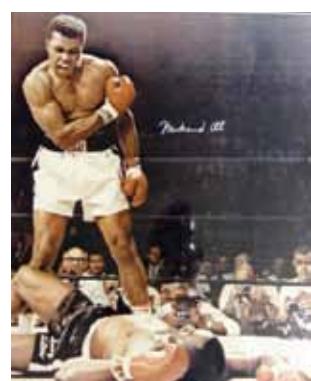
## INSIDE

### Miss Teen

Miss Marianas Teen Ariel St. Clair shares the important role she plays as youth ambassador.



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### Boxing Greats

If you are not a boxing fan, the HBO documentary "Thrilla in Manila" is not the film to make you one.

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MVA faces work-hour cuts, furloughs on June 1. **PAGE 4**  
Ex-DD director pleads guilty to embezzlement. **PAGE 5**

WITH LESS THAN 7 MONTHS BEFORE NOVEMBER POLLS

## Election panel still has 4 vacancies

By MONETH G. DEPOSA  
moneth\_deposa@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

With November polls a little over six months away, the Commonwealth Election Commission still needs to fill four important vacancies: executive director and three board members.

**Retirees to govt: Pay up now or court will compel you to pay**

**Fund proposes to stop refunds, disability benefits**

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO  
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REPORTER

Worried about the future of their pensions, some 150 government retirees met as a group Monday night for the first time in years and demanded that the government start paying some \$6 million every month in employer contribution to the Retirement Fund. They fear the Fund would go broke in just a few years if it doesn't get the payments due it.

"The last resort for retirees is to ask the court to compel the government to pay. . . . The court told

See RETIREES on Page 4



HAIDEE V. EUGENIO  
Well over a hundred retirees demand the government to pay its employer contribution to the NMI Retirement Fund which they fear will collapse in just a few years, at a meeting organized by the Commonwealth Association of Retired Persons at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe on Monday night.

## Faster immigration process for foreign workers—Grey

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO  
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REPORTER

Securing a work visa to reenter the CNMI among foreign workers may not be as hard as previously thought once federalization sets in.

Immigration director Melvin Grey yesterday told members and guests of the Rotary Club of Saipan that foreign workers granted a change in work status—from a CNMI permit to an H classifica-



Grey

tion—will still need a work visa issued by a U.S. embassy in their home country before they could re-enter the CNMI after federalization sets in.

But Grey said this expedites the process of securing work

visa for foreign workers to be able to re-enter the CNMI after a vacation.

"When a person walks in with the [document stating] that they been granted H status in the CNMI, they show it to the embassy folks and...it will expedite the process [of issuing work visas] instead of waiting for months for it to happen. That will allow him to come back in," Grey said, adding that this

is a positive change from what was previously known.

Grey said the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services shared this information during a recent meeting hosted by the Tinian Chamber of Commerce.

"USCIS told us that normally it takes about 60 days for them to process an application. It goes to the national visa center which

See FASTER on Page 4

**Three NMC department chairs file 5 complaints**

By MONETH G. DEPOSA  
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REPORTER

The Northern Marianas College suffered yet another blow after three department heads recently filed five successive complaints against the college's management. This comes even as NMC continues to wait for the decision of the Western Association of Schools and Colleges on its continued show-cause status.

Documents obtained by *Saipan Tribune* show that five grievances were filed with the office of Dr. Debra T. Cabrera, dean of Academic Programs and Services.

The complaints were signed by Frank Sobolewski, chair of the Social Sciences and Fine Arts Department; Mark Haag, chair of the Languages and Humanities Department; and Larry Lee, acting chair of the Business Department.

All five complaints were received by Cabrera's office on March 26, March 27, March 29, and March 31.

All four personnel, including Cabrera, were among the signatories of the petition supporting former regent Agnes McPhetres' retention on the Board of Regents.

Board chair Charles V. Cepeda declined to comment yesterday, saying he respects the process, which he said is

See THREE on Page 4

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**Local****Ex-CUC employee: James Santos asked me to damage chemicals**By FERDIE DE LA TORRE  
ferdie.delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

A former Commonwealth Utilities Corp. employee testified yesterday that James A. Santos asked him to damage the chemicals at CUC in exchange for money.

In the ongoing jury trial of Lt. Gov. Timothy P. Villagomez and co-defendants James Santos and Joaquina V. Santos, CUC management specialist Grina Mizutani also testified yesterday that Villagomez and then CUC executive director Anthony Guerrero contacted him to follow up on the \$120,000 payment to Joaquina Santos of Blue Pacific for 3,000 gallons of Rydlyme.

The U.S. government also called to the witness stand CUC procurement and supply manager Manuel Borja Sablan.

As this developed, after talking with prosecution and defense lawyers yesterday, U.S. District Court Chief Judge Alex R. Munson excused one juror.

Nicolas Muna, a former CUC employee responsible for issuing and receiving materials at the warehouse, told the court that between 1999 to 2000, James Santos, who is his neighbor on Rota, was at the CUC

warehouse a couple of times to deliver chemicals.

One time, Muna said, James Santos asked him if he could damage the barrels of the chemicals and that Santos offered him an unstated amount of money to do it. He said he refused the offer and did not do what Santos asked him to do.

Muna said he couldn't recall the exact date when James Santos approached him.

**Follow-ups**

Mizutani, who has been CUC's management specialist since December 2007, testified that in the latter part of 2007, Villagomez texted him to follow up and push the \$120,000 contract with Blue Pacific.

The witness, however, admitted to assistant U.S. Attorney Eric O'Malley that he used Villagomez's name in pushing for the contract as it was being routed through CUC.

CUC procurement and supply manager Sablan testified that in the late 2007 he learned about Rydlyme when one of his staff, Joseph Fejeran, showed him a requisition voucher from CUC's water division.

The witness said it was only after the signing of the contract that he became aware that Villagomez is the brother of Joaquina Santos.

He said Villagomez and then executive director Anthony Guerrero texted him to follow up on

the payment to Blue Pacific.

Mizutani also pointed to Charlene Tenorio as the other person pushing for the payment. Tenorio used to work at CUC as an administrative support specialist.

During cross-examination by attorney David Lujan, counsel for Villagomez, Mizutani admitted he was not involved in the 1998, 1999 and 2000 CUC Rydlyme transactions. Mizutani said his only personal knowledge was CUC's 2007 transaction to purchase Rydlyme from Blue Pacific.

He also agreed with Lujan that he did not force CUC budget and fiscal officer Bettina G. Terlaje to sign the 2007 contract.

The witness, however, admitted to assistant U.S. Attorney Eric O'Malley that he used Villagomez's name in pushing for the contract as it was being routed through CUC.

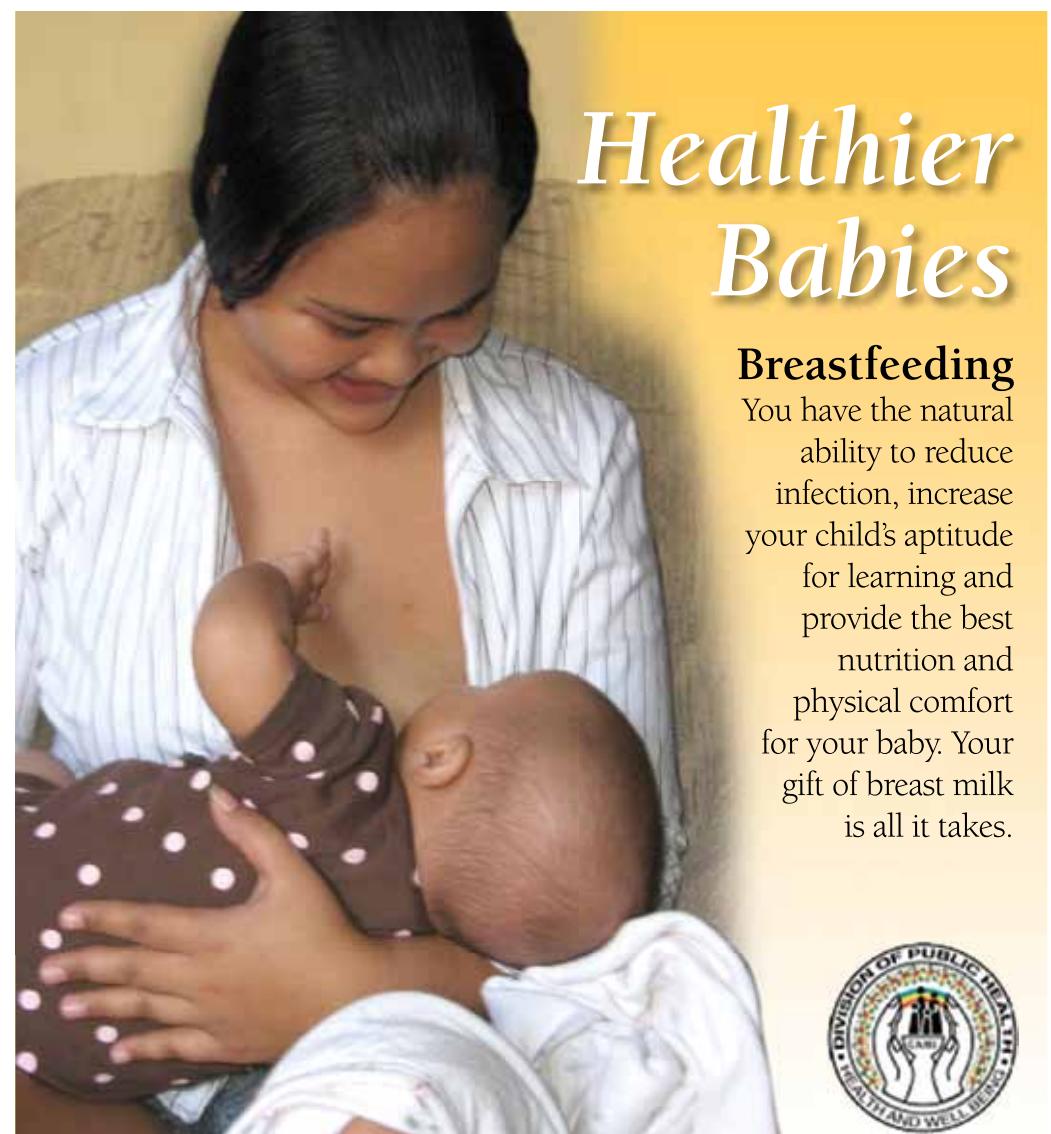
CUC procurement and supply manager Sablan testified that in the late 2007 he learned about Rydlyme when one of his staff, Joseph Fejeran, showed him a requisition voucher from CUC's water division.

Sablan said he also received an unsolicited quotation for Rydlyme from Blue Pacific dated Aug. 27, 2007.

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# Two men injured in CK vehicular crash

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE  
ferdie\_deltorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Two men were injured when their vehicles collided along Beach Road in Chalan Kanoa Monday afternoon.

Police said Vicente S. Palacios, 33, complained of pain in the neck and numbness in his left arm.

Sung Jin Kim, 59, sustained visible injuries on his face and bruises on his left arm. He also complained of pain in the left side of his chest.

Department of Public Safety spokesperson Eric F. David said yesterday that alcohol was not a



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

This white 2005 Toyota Camry sustained extensive damage to the entire left side after colliding with a Toyota 4-Runner along Beach Road in Chalan Kanoa Monday afternoon.

factor in the crash.

Traffic officers determined that Kim caused the collision because

he failed to stop or yield to vehicles that had the right of way while entering through a highway.

David said officers also noted that it is unlawful to drive any vehicle over, upon, or across any di-

viding section, or to make any left turn, semicircular or U-turn on any divided lanes on a highway.

David said DPS received a call about a vehicular accident in front of Courtney's Plaza building in Chalan Kanoa at 2:06pm Monday.

When police officers and medics arrived at the scene, a white 2000 Toyota 4-Runner was resting partially on the inner northbound lane and was facing north. The 4-Runner, driven by Palacios, had extensive damage to the front.

A white 2005 Toyota Camry was resting on the shoulder/parking lot of Courtney's Plaza facing south. It had extensive damage to the entire left side. Its driver, Kim, was still seated in the driver's seat

when the officers arrived.

Debris from the crash covered the entire portion of the road. Traffic heading both north and south was jammed.

Medics tended to both Palacios and Kim, who were later brought to the Commonwealth Health Center for further treatment.

Traffic officers learned that Palacios was driving the 4-Runner south on the inner lane of Beach Road when the Toyota Camry, being driven by Kim, suddenly made a U-turn from the parking lot of Courtney's Plaza to go north.

As a result, the two vehicles collided.

David said two witnesses corroborated the statements of Palacios.

At CHC, Kim told traffic officers the only thing that he could remember was leaving Courtney's Plaza to head back to his office in Chalan Kanoa.

## Remains of Filipino worker to be sent home today

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO  
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REPORTER

The remains of a Filipino worker who died on March 29 after he fell into a coma for a week will be sent home this morning, with his last employer of record—XO Market—shouldering the funeral expenses and airfare.

Rodolfo Pabale's body will be flown back to the Philippines today.

He was 63, according to his daughter Winnie Pabale, who came to Saipan on April 4 to fetch his father's remains.

"I am so thankful for those who helped, like Nina Reyes and Rolly Querijero, and everyone else. When I got here, everything was already okay," Winnie Pabale told *Saipan Tribune*.

She said the observance of Holy Week delayed the trip home for a few days.

The remains will be brought to San Pedro, Laguna, where Pabale will be laid to rest.

Pabale had been in a coma since the morning of March 21 after he had a stroke while cooking in his apartment in San Antonio. He passed away a week later on March 29 at CHC.

Pabale came to Saipan in

1992 to work as a purchaser for XO Market. After years with the company, his contract expired on Nov. 30, 2006, but was extended for six months. Pabale worked at XO Market until May 2007. After that, he was said to have worked for different companies.

The Department of Labor, according to his daughter, determined that his father's last employer of record is XO Market,

which paid for the funeral and transportation expenses. She said she was told that Labor will be taking care of his father's hospital expenses.

Winnie Pabale said his father's Overseas Workers Welfare Administration membership expired just a few months before he died. An OWWA life insurance could have provided Pabale's family money for them to help cope with the loss. Sakisat said.

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# MVA employees face work-hour cuts, furloughs, layoffs on June 1

**By KRISTI EATON**  
kristi\_eaton@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The Marianas Visitors Authority will be implementing what it calls a "reduction in force" effective June 1, in order to stay within the funding level for the rest of the fiscal year.

A reduction in force could mean a cut in work hours, long-term furloughs, reduction in staff and elimination of functions, according to Perry Tenorio, managing director of MVA, in a letter to employees.

"More than one type of action may be necessary. I anticipate

that all employees, both management and staff, will be affected," he said. The letter was also sent to Gov. Benigno Fitial, Lt. Gov. Timothy Villagomez, the Legislature, the Office of Personnel Management, the MVA board of directors and the Civil Service Commission.

There are close to 30 employees at the Authority, an employee said.

The Fiscal Year 2009 budget, passed by the Legislature in March after it overrode the governor's veto, appropriated \$955,597 for the MVA payroll of 36 employees and \$5.72 mil-

lion for non-personnel costs, totaling \$6.68 million.

The MVA is one of the latest government agencies considering ways to cut costs.

Tinian Mayor Jose P. San Nicolas has said he is considering a two-month furlough for employees if all other austerity measures fail.

The Fitial administration earlier said thousands of government employees could be furloughed in order to stay within the \$156.76 million budget without cost-reductions measures like unpaid holidays

and austerity Fridays. Fitial has since said he plans on using approximately \$8 million from federal stimulus funds to cover any deficit in payroll costs for the rest of the fiscal year.

Charles Reyes, press secretary for the Governor's Office, said the reduction in force is an example of why Fitial vetoed the budget. MVA is an important agency to generate revenue, yet without austerity measures it could not be properly funded, he said.

The Legislature cut the budgets of government agencies as revenue declined, but it did not

specify how each agency should reduce costs, instead forcing each department head to make the decisions, Reyes said.

"The legislators don't want to make the tough political decisions," he added.

The press secretary said the administration is hoping for the \$8 million to cover payroll costs, but it's important not to count the chickens before they hatch.

And, he noted, under the budget law new hires are restricted, so if employees are let go before the stimulus funding can come in, they might not be rehired.

Once the cost-cutting measures are determined, Tenorio said affected employees would be given as much notice as possible, but not less than 30 days.

"I understand that any of the reduction-in-force actions will be painful to those affected and I will be making every effort to minimize these actions to the best of my abilities. However, the reality is that, without additional funding becoming available, the Authority does not have sufficient funding to pay salaries for the remainder of this fiscal year," Tenorio wrote in the letter.

## ELECTION

From Page 1

bune learned. Sablan declined to identify the applicants.

"We're going to review the applications and then hopefully decide in this week's meeting who will be our next executive director," she said.

The nine-member board of commissioners has three positions each for Rota, Saipan,

and Tinian.

Also this week, Sablan said they scheduled a swearing in ceremony for the reappointed member from Tinian, Joe Kiyoshi.

"We still have two vacant posts on the board and we will ask the governor for his appointments before the election," she said.

These vacancies were the positions held by former commissioners Miranda Manglona of Rota and Melvin Sablan from

Saipan. Other members of the election board include Josepha Barcinas, Elizabeth Dlg. Aldan, Jose Itibus, Jesus Sablan, and Donald Hofscheider.

### Election law changes

The board chairwoman disclosed yesterday that the commission has no position yet on the Legislature's proposal to change election rules governing absentee ballots.

The deadline for comments was last Friday.

Authored by Rota Sen. Paul Manglona, Senate Bill 16-22 calls for amendments to the election law, which the lawmaker described as "outdated and an unnecessary barrier" to the exercise.

The legislation wants the CNMI to establish uniformity in the processing of absentee voting and to further clarify ambiguities in the CNMI election law.

The commissioners still need to discuss this proposal

and solicit their comments if there's a need for us to pass a comment," she said.

However, Sablan admitted that changes in the election rules may take some time as it will require a thorough analysis and study by the commission.

Earlier, Sablan said a runoff in the general election is inevitable as five team candidates—two from the same party—have already announced their bids.

These candidates include the

tandems of Benigno R. Fitial and Eloy Inos, Covenant; Juan T. Guerrero and Joseph Camacho, Independent; Ramon Guerrero and David Borja, Independent; Juan Babauta and Galvin Deleon Guerrero, Republican; and Heinz Hofscheider and Arnold Palacios, Republican.

The Republican Party has set a primary between the contending gubernatorial candidates in June to determine the party's official standard-bearer.

## THREE

From Page 1

designed to hear the voices of students and faculty members.

"I understand that it is their way of relaying the message to the president. I respect and I believe in that process," Cepeda told *Saipan Tribune*, admitting that these complaints have yet to reach the president's and the board's attention and are being resolved at the lower levels.

Some college official who agreed to comment as long as they are not identified expressed belief the issues currently being raised against NMC are meant to discredit the college during this critical time when it is trying to reaffirm its accreditation.

### Delaying the hiring of qualified instructors

In his complaint dated March 26, Haag alleged that NMC presi-

dent Dr. Carmen Fernandez is deliberately delaying the hiring of an English instructor, resulting in the overload and distress of full-time English faculty.

"The extreme overloads have caused serious problems for the English instructors. Those problems are being solved to impact as little as possible on our students...but the solutions are taking a toll on the English instructors," he said.

Haag disclosed that on Feb. 23, the president recommended the hiring of an off-island non-qualified applicant to the position and had offered the job to the candidate, contradicting the recommendation of the HRO and the department chair.

Due to delays, NMC lost other potential candidates for the position, according to Haag.

"Timelines are not acceptable if we wish to hire qualified instructors when they are needed. Most of the time, it was because

of the president's inability or unwillingness to make a decision. Either way, her lack of a timely decision has caused the English instructors and department a lot of problems because of the high overloads," Haag said.

Haag also complained about delays in the hiring of a Japanese instructor. Fernandez, he said, disapproved the recommendation to rehire adjunct faculty Hiroko Yasukata, which led to the cancellation of a class in January until the president changed her mind and approved Yasukata's term for the Spring semester only. Because of this, the assigned adjunct instructor was advised late about the president's new decision.

Due to Fernandez's inability to make timely decision, both instructors were treated unprofessionally, Haag said.

### Detrimental hiring practice

In a complaint dated March 31,

Larry Lee said that Fernandez's hiring practices violates the policy and procedures of the academic council. He cited three occasions that he said seriously affected the quality of academic programs and services at NMC.

Lee disclosed that in Fall 2008, the president took no action on the recommendation of then department chair Eric Plinske to hire two accounting instructors, causing the cancellation of classes.

In December 2008, another delay in the president's decision caused the department to scramble to find adjunct faculty for five accounting classes, he said.

The same thing happened with the computer instructor for the department, which also resulted in cancelled classes.

"The current practice of the president exercising sole authority over the hiring of full-time and adjunct faculty is causing serious harm to the quality

of our academic programs and services," Lee said, adding that the president's explanation about the delayed decisions are also causing undue process and massive amounts of extra work for the department chairs.

Lee disclosed that in Fall 2008, the president took no action on the recommendation of then department chair Eric Plinske to hire two accounting instructors, causing the cancellation of classes.

Lee said the lack of attention and "extremely poor transition" to the current manager resulted in a delay in the arrival of dozens of textbook orders. It was disclosed that there were 17 academic courses that were still without the required textbooks, greatly reducing the quality of academic instruction on campus.

### Improper budget process

On March 27, Senate Faculty president Frank Sobolewski

filed a complaint before Cabrera's office about what he described as the "improper" budget process conducted for Fiscal Year 2010.

Drafted by six people, Sobolewski alleged that the procedure violated the budget process as stated in the NMC Institutional Excellence Guide of December 2008.

The violations include:

- The role of the group of six persons is not mentioned in the description of the budget process;

- The meeting held by the group were not open or inclusive and there is no evidence as to whether or not they were objective;

- No consistent relationship between the budget proposal and program review results was presented at the budget and finance committee meetings; and

- No relationship between the budget proposal and the composite report was presented at the meetings.

## RETIREEES

From Page 1

the government to pay land compensation and ordered DLNR to pay millions to [businessman Anthony Pellegrino]. Why can't they pay us?" asked David Igitol, a retiree and charter member of the Commonwealth Association of Retired Persons.

Ron Barrineau, who helped organize the meeting, called on gubernatorial candidates to present retirees with a "workable plan that will put revenue into the retirement system so that these 3,000 retirees, most of whom do not have U.S. social security, will have some means of support."

"We want the government to pay as much as they can of their share of the Fund which they haven't done for many years, and we want anyone running for office to tell us what kind of plan he or she has to keep the Fund alive," he added.

Retiree Agnes McPhetres said candidates should heed the call of retirees to win their votes.

### Proposals

NMI Retirement Fund administrator Mark Aguon, along with board trustees led by chair Juan T. Guerrero, presented during the meeting proposals to help save the pension system.

They include ceasing contribution refunds and disability bene-

fits, halting benefits to those found guilty of felony and other crimes, soft freeze on benefits accrued at 20 years, as well as passage of a local bill that will shield the Fund from political tampering.

"It's a renewed call for the government to pay. They have to pay \$3 million per pay period or \$6 million a month," Igitol told *Saipan Tribune* during the Monday night meeting at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe.

Press secretary Charles P. Reyes Jr. said the Fitial administration is willing to pay the employer contribution to the Retirement Fund mandated by the current budget law at a rate of 11 percent.

"It actually turns out to be a blessing that the government has not made the full employer contribution (according to the actuarial rate, at least) since September of last year because that would have only resulted in very substantial market losses and perhaps even a permanent loss of capital for the Fund and CNMI retirees," Reyes said.

### Unpaid contributions

As of March 31, the CNMI government owes the Retirement Fund over \$196 million in employer contributions, according to Fund comptroller David S. Demapan.

The NMI Retirement Fund's unfunded liability has ballooned to \$584 million, mainly because

of the local government's unpaid contributions to the pension system. That does not include the fiscal year 2009 interest penalty of \$953,478.64 since it is not yet the end of the fiscal year.

This means for every dollar that the NMI Retirement Fund owes beneficiaries, only 34 cents is funded and 66 cents is unfunded, said Demapan.

Fiscal-year-to-date withdrawals from investments have already reached \$4.431 million to pay for pension costs, refunds, conversion from the defined benefit plan to the defined contribution plan, staff payroll, and vendors.

Fund officials say if they keep using investments to pay for benefits while the government

continues to fail to pay its obligation, these will result in the collapse of the CNMI pension system in just a few years.

### Reluctance, indecisiveness

Rep. Ray Yumul, chairman of the NMI Retirement Fund Working Group, said there's still indecisiveness or reluctance to decide on a draft omnibus bill that aims to help stabilize the pension fund.

But he said this may be due to a need for more time to thoroughly review the bill.

Yumul, who also chairs the House Committee on Ways and Means, said among the draft bill's provision is a reduction in certain Fund benefits.

## FASTER

From Page 1

then sends it to the embassy and it will take the embassy probably four to six months, under

normal circumstances, for them to issue a visa. What they're trying to do is expedite that," he told reporters.

He said there is no guarantee that a U.S. work visa will be granted to those with approved

H classification in the CNMI.

Grey said it is business as usual at the CNMI Division of Immigration, at least until Nov. 28, the start of transition to federal immigration.

He told Rotary Club that

his request to the federal government to waive the age and test requirements for CNMI immigration personnel to be employed under the federal system has not been responded to.

Grey reiterated that a green card will not be granted to foreign workers based on the length of their stay here, but the federal government is still not sure what to do with permanent residents in the CNMI

whose status were granted in the late '70s or early '80s.

But the federal government, he said, is "beginning to understand us a little bit more," citing the delay in federalization from June 1 to Nov. 28.

# Ex-DD director pleads guilty to embezzlement

Former Council for Developmental Disabilities director Antonio Camacho Chong pleaded guilty yesterday to embezzling Council property worth at least \$5,000.

The U.S. government, represented by Assistant U.S. Attorney Kirk W. Schuler, charged the 49-year-old Chong with one count of embezzlement from a program receiving federal funds.

At yesterday's hearing, Chong waived the indictment and pleaded guilty.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Alex R. Munson accepted Chong's plea and set the sentencing for July 21, 2009 at 9am.

Munson allowed the temporary release of Chong on a \$10,000 unsecured bond plus other conditions.

Schuler stated in the charging information that on April 25, 2008, Chong, then employed by the Council, embezzled property worth at least \$5,000.

## House questions Fitial's signature on letter to Obama

By KRISTI EATON  
kristi\_eaton@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The governor's press secretary said yesterday he is still not sure who signed Gov. Benigno Fitial's signature on a letter submitted to President Obama, while members of the House of Representatives raised concerns about the authenticity of Fitial's signature on the letter during a session yesterday.

"I don't know who signed off for the governor, but the governor supported the letter's position. I also understand that he signed that letter while in D.C. In any case, the issue is now moot," said Charles Reyes, press secretary for the Governor's Office, about the March 4 letter addressed to Obama.

The letter asked Obama to let the Department of Interior administer the State Fiscal Stabilization Fund section of the American Recovery and Re-

investment Act, not the U.S. Department of Education as required under the law.

Fitial's signature appeared alongside signatures of the governors of the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam and American Samoa.

Reyes earlier said the governors' request was denied, which is supported by a letter from the Department of Education Secretary Arne Duncan to the governor of the U.S. Virgin Islands, saying the Education Department would consult with the Interior.

Vice Speaker Joseph Deleon Guerrero brought up the issue during a session of the House of Representatives yesterday.

"In my interpretation, this is nothing short of a forgery," he said, adding that he was concerned about the legality of the document.

How many governors does the Commonwealth have, Rep. David Apatang asked.

"We only voted for one governor. I wonder if there is another governor somewhere. This is very serious," the representative said.

For his part, House Speaker Arnold Palacios said he was concerned about the impression sending a letter to the White House with a "fake" signature would look.

"How and why this happened is beyond comprehension," he added.

In speaking with CNMI Rep. Gregorio "Kilili" Sablan, Palacios said he was informed the CNMI's stabilization funding was delayed by a month because of the letter. Puerto Rico, the Speaker said, has already received its share.

However, Puerto Rico does not fall under the Department of the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs like the CNMI, American Samoa, Guam, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

The issue came up after members of the Public School System's Board of Education learned about Fitial signing the letter asking Obama to let Interior disburse the stabilization funds. BOE vice chair Herman Guerrero said he was upset Fitial wrote the letter to Obama without first asking PSS.

Press secretary Reyes yesterday said the administration encourages open dialogue between PSS and the administration.

Schuler said the property was provided by federal monies to the Council that was to be used for work-related travel expenses.

Court documents did not mention specifically what property was embezzled. (*Ferdie dela Torre*)

"In fact, in the past, the PSS Commissioner [Dr. David Borja at the time] made it a point to attend our weekly Cabinet meetings. We regret that Commissioner [Rita] Sablan has not accepted our open invitation to attend our weekly Cabinet meeting and discuss educational issues directly with the administration instead of through the media," Reyes said, adding that Dan Nielsen, the governor's education advisor, is also available to help PSS address issues concerning the administration.

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# Fitial, Inos told to release parts of docs asked by Sablan

BY FERDIE DE LA TORRE  
ferdie\_delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman yesterday ordered Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and Finance Secretary Eloy Inos to produce some of the

documents being requested by Rep. Tina Sablan.

Wiseman gave Fitial and Inos seven days from yesterday to produce the documents related to those that are not subject to the defendants' objection.

At a hearing last week, assis-

tant attorney general Braddock Huesman, counsel for Fitial and Inos, objected to giving Sablan copies of three documents: the letter engaging the services of lawyers; billing documents and statements sent to the CNMI for the 903 litigation (federal-

ization lawsuit); and payments made by the CNMI to attorneys for the 903 litigation.

Sablan sued Fitial and Inos to compel the administration to disclose where it is getting the money to fund the lawsuit against federalization.

The congresswoman asked the court to issue an order mandating Fitial and Inos to fulfill their obligations under CNMI law by making available the requested materials within 40 hours of the court's decision.

In the defendants' motion to

dismiss Sablan's lawsuit, Huesman argued that forcing the CNMI to release sensitive information that the federal government is not entitled to contravene the purpose of a statute that deals with litigation exceptions to the Open Government Act.

## 15 slots for educational trip to Korea still open

BY MONETH G. DEPOSA  
moneth\_deposa@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

All 15 slots for an educational trip to Korea remain unfilled at this time despite invitations sent out by the Saipan Mayor's Office.

Every year, Mayor Juan B. Tudela travel to Korea with 15 local students as part of strength-

ening cultural and educational ties between the two countries.

However, this year—the fifth time the trip is being done—may never be the same as previous years.

"Up to know we're still searching for local students to go next month. Since we sent the invitations to all public

high schools and the Mount Carmel School in early March, no one has come in yet and applied for the trip," Tudela told *Saipan Tribune*.

A local student needs to apply to the mayor's office and pay some \$300 as a requirement to join the trip.

The trip is slated for May 11 to 16 and participants are scheduled to visit some Korean schools, business sites, and factories that will help local students better understand the Koreans' way of life.

In the last five years, over a hundred local students have already participated in the educational trip to Korea, Tudela said.

The experiences provided to all first-time travelers to Korea are worthwhile, according to the mayor.

Still hopeful on the positive response of school principals, Tudela said he may search for participants from local families in the community.

"I may go to families in the community and ask for their

children's participation...if nobody from the schools comes forward and apply," he said.

*Saipan Tribune* learned that last year, 15 students joined the mayor on his Korean trip, which was slated during summer.

Tudela believes that besides the bad state of economy on island, the "untimely" schedule of the trip was also a factor.

"Maybe the reason behind [the lack of applicants] is that schools will be closed soon next month...and students have to make up for their classes and projects. Since this is a week-long trip, students are worried about their grades," the mayor said, adding that his office is looking for participants who can maintain their academic records despite the weeklong absence.

The deadline to apply for the trip is on the first week of May.

Meantime, Tudela is set to go on a trip to Japan on May 8-9 to grace the Seisa High School presentation where he was chosen as one of the guest speakers.

Both trips are sponsored by the mayor's office.

## House backs lower pachinko license fee

BY KRISTI EATON  
kristi\_eaton@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

After almost an hour of debate, the House of Representatives yesterday adopted a committee report on a bill that would reduce the license fees for pachinko slot machines.

The House Ways and Means Committee recommended the passage of House Bill 16-225, lowering the annual license fee from \$6,000 to \$2,000.

"Lowering the annual fee to \$2,000 is reasonable to encourage more widespread offering of pachinko slot machines at amusement machine establishments. More machines offered will entice more players, translating to more license fee revenue and jackpot winning taxes for the general fund," the bill stated.

Big Boyz II Marine has written to the Legislature saying the group is ready to pay \$300,000

in annual license fees if the bill becomes law.

"We surely could use this \$300,000 direct revenue into our government coffers for needed medical referrals, students assistance and other essential public service programs," the company wrote in the letter.

During yesterday's session, some members compared pachinko slot machines to poker machines and raised concerns about gambling addiction.

Rep. Raymond Palacios, however, disagreed.

"Why are we blaming the machines?" he asked, adding that it's like cockfighting.

He said it's the person who becomes addicted.

"Education is the solution here. It's not the machines' fault," he said.

Some members said more pachinko machines could mean more tourists to the CNMI, generating even more revenue.

## CPA assures safety of Saipan airport, reports ongoing work

Commonwealth Ports Authority executive director Efrain F. Camacho assured yesterday the employees' and passengers' safety at the Saipan International Airport, saying that most parts of the site have sprinkler pipes in place.

The activation of the equipment is expected within the year, according to Camacho.

"CPA is developing plans to have it activated within a year, perhaps shorter," he told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

In the meantime, CPA relies on its own firefighting unit. "The public is in little to no danger," he added.

On other safety measures, the agency continues to upgrade its system.

Within a few weeks, the long awaited procurement and upgrading of the public address system will start. Funding for the project was provided by the Federal Aviation Administration.

Camacho said there are other renovation works in progress and the public will see the results by summer. Among them are the certification of the new baggage handling system that will eliminate the long lines at both the arrival and departure areas.

After the repair of its two main generators at the airport, CPA is now in the process of procuring a third generator.

Repairs on the runway are also expected to begin soon.

"CPA assures the traveling public that the terminal building is a safe place and all efforts are being taken to ensure the passengers' comfort," Camacho added. (*Moneth G. Deposa*)

**Procurement And Supply  
CNMI Government**

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS**

RFP09-RHC-080  
Submission: May 18, 2009 • Time: 2:00 p.m.

**"MANPOWER SERVICES FOR THE ROTA HEALTH CENTER"**

Copies of the Scope of Services may be obtained at the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply in Lower Base during regular working hours.

A pre-proposal conference will be held on May 04, 2009 at 10:00 a.m. at the Mayor's Office Conference Room, Songsong Village, Rota.

Any questions regarding this RFP should be directed to Julian S. Calvo, RDH – Rota Health Center by fax to (670) 532-0955 or by e-mail to rhcadmin@pticom.com no later than May 07, 2009, close of business.

Preference is available to US Citizens or Permanent Residents as per Public Law 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118 and must be submitted with the proposal if preference is claimed.

/s/ JOSEPH S. INOS  
Mayor of Rota

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAM  
Director, P&S

**Procurement And Supply  
CNMI Government**

**INVITATION TO BID**

ITB NO.: ITB09-SOF-073  
Submission/Opening Date: April 24, 2009 • Time: 10:00 a.m.

**"FUEL SUPPLY/FLEET CARD SYSTEM"**

Copies of the specifications may be picked-up at the Office of the Director, Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base Dr., Saipan during regular working hours.

Preference is available to US Citizens or Permanent Residents as per Public Law 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118 and must be submitted with the bid if preference is claimed.

/s/ ELOY S. INOS  
SECRETARY OF FINANCE

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAM  
DIRECTOR, P&S

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**BRUCE L. MAILMAN** is a member of the American Immigration Lawyers Association and has provided immigration services in the CNMI since 1989

**MAYA B. KARA** is a former CNMI Acting Attorney General, Chief Legislative Counsel, Governor's and Lt. Governor's Legal Counsel and DOL Hearing Officer

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands  
**COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY**  
Wakin's Bldg., Gualo Rai, Tel. 234-7145/7146/6293  
Saipan, MP 96950

**CDA**

**NOTICE OF AMENDMENT  
OF A QUALIFYING CERTIFICATE**

**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that:**

CNMI Governor Benigno R. Fitial, on March 16, 2009, approved of the Commonwealth Development Authority's (CDA's) recommendation to modify Qualifying Certificate No. QC 2008-01 for *Saipan Laulau Development, Inc. d.b.a. Laolao Bay Golf Resort* ("the Beneficiary").

**Address.** The address of the Beneficiary is *Kagman*, municipality of *Saipan*, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands 96950.

**Investment.** The Beneficiary will invest approximately \$54.2 million to construct and operate a golftel facility, including the renovation of its existing 36-hole golf course located at *Kagman*, municipality of *Saipan*, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands 96950.

For more detailed information, please contact CDA at the above telephone numbers or visit its offices in Gualo Rai, Saipan.

/s/ Manuel A. Sablan  
Executive Director

Pursuant to Qualifying Certificate Rules and Regulations, this advertisement is paid for by the Beneficiary

# Judiciary requests \$5 million budget for FY10

By KRISTI EATON  
kristi\_eaton@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The CNMI Judiciary is asking the Legislature for a budget of \$5.1 million for Fiscal Year 2010.

The money would fund the Supreme Court, Superior Court, Judiciary Administrative Office, and Law Revision Commission, Supreme Court chief justice Miguel S. Demapan said in the

## BUDGET REQUEST

The following is the breakdown for the \$5.1 million request:

Supreme Court	<b>\$1.03 million</b>
Superior Court	<b>\$2.29 million</b>
Judiciary Administrative Office	<b>\$1.49 million</b>
Law Revision Commission	<b>\$284,801</b>

request to House Speaker Arnold Palacios and Senate President Pete Reyes.

in Fiscal Year 2009, something not lost on Demapan.

"While we realize the financial

difficulties under which the Commonwealth is currently operating and recognize the need for all parts of government to reduce spending levels, we also feel the need to express to you the degree to which severe budget cuts over the last few years have crippled the Judiciary's operations," the chief justice wrote.

Since 2007, the NMI Judiciary's budget has been cut by approximately 20 percent, he said.

"The immediate consequence is justice delayed, with untold economic and non-economic costs to litigants and the Commonwealth as a whole," he said.

The branch has enacted cost saving measures, including reducing the workforce through attrition from 104 full time employees in 2007 to 74 full time employees in 2009.

Earlier this year, Demapan and Superior Court presiding Judge Robert C. Naraja wrote to Palacios, Reyes and Gov. Benigno Fitial saying the first Legislature-approved 2009 budget would "cripple operations of the judicial branch."



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO  
Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 3457 members and officers donate Easter baskets to Commonwealth Health Center patients and their families on Saturday. In the photo with donation recipients are VFW Post 3457 commander Mariano Fajardo, Pete Callaghan, Dr. Ed Tudor, Leslie Jackson, Cal Caveccchio, John Davis and Larry De Leon Guerrero.

**VFW Post 3457 donates Easter baskets to CHC patients, guests**

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO  
haidee\_eugenio@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 3457 donated 25 Easter baskets to patients, guests and nurses at the Commonwealth Health Center on Saturday.

VFW Post 3457 commander Mariano Fajardo said the donation is part of their community relations project.

He said at the time of the donation, there were six patients in the pediatric unit.

"So the rest were donated to the maternity ward for the mothers of newborns. The others were donated to the families of patients we saw at the hospital," he said in an interview.

The remaining Easter baskets were given out to the nurse station, he added.

In related news, the VFW Post 3457 will have a new commander in June.

"After successive one-year term for three years I will be stepping down," said Fajardo, who was stationed in South Korea from 1987 to 1992.

Replacing him will be Larry Deleon Guerrero, who coordinated the Easter basket donation.

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# Two SHRM scholarships available

The CNMI Chapter of the Society for Human Resource Management will be awarding two \$500 scholarships to eligible students in the CNMI.

The purpose of the scholarship is to develop professionals through encouraging higher education to ultimately build a pool of skilled employees to support the field of Human Resources.

Scholarship applications are

sources for the CNMI.

This scholarship is also offered to all eligible employees who have means to improve their skills and to provide a pathway for career development and to encourage individuals to pursue a career in Human Resource Management, Hospitality Management or in Business.

Scholarship applications are

available for pick up at the Office of Personnel Management on Beach Road next to Lolipops in Garapan, and Marianas Health Services on Middle Road, Gualo Rai. All applications must be received by May 31, 2008.

For any inquiries, contact SHRM Scholarship Committee chair Denise Wong-Montene-

gro at the Human Resource Department of the Hyatt Regency Saipan (670) 234-1234 or email at dwong@hyattsaiapan.com. You may also contact Marlene Cruz, SHRM -CNMI Chapter president, at 483-4647.

The CNMI Chapter of the Society for Human Resource Management is the Commonwealth's foremost professional forum for discussion and training in Human Resource matters. (SHRM)

## Learn how to obtain capital and do business with the federal govt

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce will host a workshop conducted by representatives of the U.S. Small Business Administration, U.S. General Services Administration, and U.S. Department of Agriculture on April 22, 2009, at the Pacific Islands Club Saipan.

The half-day workshop will focus on how to do business with the federal government and how to obtain capital through the SBA's lending program.

Speakers will include Kenneth Lujan and Jack Corbett of the SBA, Brandy Untalan of the

GSA, and Joseph Diego of the USDA Rural Development.

The workshop will be at the Charley's Cabaret and will begin at 8am. After a break for lunch, the speakers will be available to meet with individuals for one-on-one discussions in the afternoon.

The meeting is \$25 for Chamber of Commerce members and \$35 for non-members, which includes lunch at PIC's Magellan dining room. Sitting is limited and reservations are required. Call the Saipan Chamber of Commerce at 233-7150 to make reservations. (SCC)

## NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

### 1.) Star Marianas, Inc.

### 2.) J&P Wholesale

### 3.) Marianas Bible Fellowship Center, Inc.

The public is invited to provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on the following Conditional Use Permit Applications:

- File 1. 2009-1303 by Star Marianas, Inc for construction of storage and maintenance.
- File 2. 2009-0959 by JP International Trade Corp. for wholesaling
- File 3. 2009-0119 by Marianas Bible Fellowship Center Inc. for church

**Date: April 16, 2009**

**Time: 5:30 pm**

Place: Zoning Office, 2nd Floor,  
Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan.

Above conditional use applications may be viewed at the Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten Building, DanDan, Saipan. Comments on the project may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may also be submitted in writing to the Zoning Office no later than 4:30 pm, April 17, 2009. Written comments may be submitted via e-mail to staff@zoning.gov.mp, via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or delivered to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, DanDan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please contact Therese T. Ogumoro, Acting Zoning Administrator, at 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & Division 3 of Title 10 CMC).

/s/ Henry S. Hofsneider, Chairman.

## Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

**April 15, 1999**

### CUC, CPA make deal

The ports authority and the utilities corporation yesterday agreed to share the cost of settling a contractor's claim for a half-completed sewer line, ending months of squabble between the agencies that has delayed the completion of the critical project. "The issue has been resolved," Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio told in an interview after the meeting. "They're going to start the project right away." According to the governor, a new Memorandum of Agreement was forged between the Commonwealth Ports Authority and the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation which spells out the terms of the cost-sharing of \$750,000 in unpaid fees to the Pacific Drilling Ltd.

### CNMI tormentor gets own torment

The New York-based law firm that lodged a \$1 billion class-action lawsuit against the CNMI garment industry has found itself in deep financial trouble. In a space of two days, the law firm Milberg Weiss Bershad Hynes and Lerach, known for filing shareholder class-action suits in which investors go against corporate management with big money at stake, was \$95 million deep in court-mandated obligations. The amount represents a \$50 million in settlement and \$45 million in compensatory damages—both won by the dean of the University of Chicago's law school and his partners who sued the law firm for damages for including them in a racketeering case.

**April 15, 2002**

### Masked men rob City Trust

Saipan banking institutions were placed on red alert Friday afternoon as an emergency reaction to the armed robbery at the City Trust Bank in Gualo Rai, where a vault was reportedly shot open by two unidentified suspects in the presence of bank employees. The holdup, which witnesses said occurred at approximately 2:15pm, will now be remembered as the Commonwealth's first case of bank robbery braved by two male suspects who entered the Gualo Rai bank garbed in dark masks. Police are currently pursuing several leads but have made no arrests as of press time. City Trust acting manager Lou Johnson told reporters Friday that the suspects ran off with an undisclosed amount of money.

### Group Health sinking due to failed promise

Among other things, the absence of the \$1 million that the Legislature had promised to fund the Group Health and Life Insurance Program, plus the delayed remittances of the Department of Finance of the monthly premiums is the primary cause why Group Health has been encountering cash flow problems. To resolve this, Northern Mariana Islands Retirement Fund Board chair Vicente C. Camacho said Group Health would soon increase the employer contribution to \$5 per subscriber for the program to stabilize financially. "We are increasing the employer's side because the contribution rate is so lopsided that employees pay much, much more and I ask for your support on this impending increase," Camacho said in a letter addressed to Sen. Ramon S. Guerrero.

**April 15, 2003**

### House to Admin: Hold your horses

House Speaker Heinz S. Hofsneider said the House of Representatives will hold a public hearing on the proposed \$228-million spending plan for Fiscal Year 2004 to see if people will support the tax and fee increases it is proposing. At the same time, House Ways and Means Committee chair Rep. Stanley Torres chided the Babauta administration for saying it is "frustrated" over the lower chamber's inaction on the budget bill and Gov. Juan N. Babauta's Integrated Fiscal Proposal. Torres said that, in the matter of the IFP, the House has already acted on it by adopting Standing Committee Report 13-72 last March 6, rejecting the proposed tax and fee increases outlined in the IFP.

### Dela Cruz a possible witness versus Atalig

Although Sen. Ricardo S. Atalig's trial proper on federal wire fraud charges has yet to begin, yesterday's jury selection showed high profile personalities and kin waiting in line to be called as witnesses for both the prosecution and the defense. Even Atalig's own wife, Rosita, might be called as a prosecution witness against him, Assistant U.S. Attorney John Rice said. Besides the list of 18 witnesses, which Rice earlier submitted to the court, the prosecutor disclosed in open court other potential witnesses, including Atalig's co-defendants, Sen. Jose Dela Cruz and his daughter Marjorie.

## COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT  
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950-1055  
Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962  
E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

### REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

#### For Construction of a Ports Police Guard House located at the West Access Gate of the Saipan International Airport Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Project No. CPA-SA-008-09

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting sealed proposals from construction firms/companies for the construction of a Police Guard House at the west access gate of the Saipan International Airport, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The detailed scope of work will be available at the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, 2nd Floor of the Arrival Building on Wednesday, April 15, 2009. All responses to this RFP shall also take into account any and all taxes that will be charged to the proposer awarded the contract for the project, including excise tax and the associated costs for security access to the airport's sterile area.

Inquiries regarding this Request for Proposals may be delivered to the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, at the Saipan International Airport, faxed to (670) 234-5962 or emailed to cpa.admin@pticom.com.

All proposals are to be submitted in a sealed envelope marked with the respective RFP description to the office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, 2nd floor of the Arrival Building, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, no later than **4:30 p.m., Friday, May 8, 2009**.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in the proposals if determined by the Ports Authority to be in its best interest. All proposals shall become the property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

/s/ EFRAIN F. CAMACHO, P.E.  
Executive Director/Contracting Officer

Date: April 14, 2009

## COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

P.O. Box 502149, Saipan MP 96950  
Tel: (670) 234-6245/6293/7145/7146 • Fax: (670) 234-7144 or 235-7147  
Email: administration@cda.gov.mp • Website: www.cda.gov.mp

### PUBLIC NOTICE

April 14, 2009

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, the Board of Directors of the Development Corporation Division (DCD) of the Commonwealth Development Authority thru its Chairwoman, hereby informs the general public that the DCD Board of Directors will meet on Thursday, April 16, 2009 at 10:00 a.m. The meeting will be held at the CDA Conference Room, Second Floor, Wakin's Building, Chalan Pale Arnold Road, Saipan. The agenda for this meeting is as follows:

#### AGENDA

##### I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS

- 1. Roll Call
- 2. Adoption of Agenda

##### II. PUBLIC COMMENTS

- 1. Financial Report – DCD

- 2. Loan Reports
  - a. Approved Loans & Bank Guarantees
  - b. Bank Guarantees Status' Report
  - c. Loan Status/Receivables Report
  - d. DCD Performing Loan Summary/Delinquency & Litigation

##### IV. OLD BUSINESS

- 1. Sy's Corporation

##### V. NEW BUSINESS

- 1. Borrowers' Requests

##### VI. OTHER MATTERS

##### VII. ADJOURNMENT

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony on the above agenda items. (Note: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a)(7) and Section 13(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session)

/s/ MARCIE M. TOMOKANE  
Chairwoman, CDA Board of Directors

## COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

P.O. Box 502149, Saipan MP 96950  
Tel: (670) 234-6245/6293/7145/7146 • Fax: (670) 234-7144 or 235-7147  
Email: administration@cda.gov.mp • Website: www.cda.gov.mp

### PUBLIC NOTICE

April 15, 2009

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, the Board of Directors of the Commonwealth Development Authority thru its Chairman, hereby informs the general public that the CDA Board will hold a Special Meeting on Thursday, April 16, 2009 immediately after the DCD Board meeting. The DCD Board meeting will convene at 10:00 a.m. The meeting will be held at the CDA Conference Room, Second Floor, Wakin's Building, Chalan Pale Arnold Road, Saipan. The agenda for this meeting is as follows:

#### AGENDA

##### I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS

- 1. Roll Call
- 2. Adoption of Agenda
- 3. Adoption of Minutes (March 30, 2009)

##### II. PUBLIC COMMENTS

##### III. REVITALIZING CNMI'S AGRICULTURE INDUSTRY

##### IV. CUC-CDA LOAN

##### V. PRESENTATION/APPROVAL OF LITIGATION MEASURE

##### VI. OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO

##### VII. ADJOURNMENT

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony on the above agenda items. (Note: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a)(7) and Section 13(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session)

/s/ PEDRO I. ITIBUS  
Chairman, CDA Board of Directors

# Fijian media censored, foreign media expelled

PITA LIGAULUA  
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

The forced exodus from Fiji has begun, with all foreign media being booted out of the Pacific nation.

Three foreign journalists have been arrested and a local reporter was put behind bars for reporting on the nation's political upheaval.

ABC correspondent Sean Dorney has arrived back in Sydney after he was deported by government officials, unhappy with his coverage of recent political developments in the troubled nation.

Dorney spent the night under supervision by immigration officials in Nadi along with New Zealand journalist Sia Aston and cameraman Matt Smith, of TV3, who have now also been deported.

Now, local media in Fiji are under huge pressure, with the country's military head, Frank Bainimarama, posting censors in newsrooms.

A Fiji One reporter spent the night in jail, and is still in custody after sending footage to ONE News.

Law Society president Dorsami Naidu is also in custody for speaking to media.

"They're keeping me in custody overnight," he says, "but I think it's more to teach me a lesson, to shut my mouth, but we'll see what happens tomorrow," he says.

Also ordered out were New Zealand's TV3 reporter, Sia Aston, and cameraman, Matt Smith, who are in Fiji to report on the political situation. Aston had video tapes and her personal cell phone confiscated by Fiji officials.

Fiji's latest political upheaval began Friday, when President Ratu Josefa Iloilo abolished the constitution, fired all the judges and declared a state of emergency in response to a senior court's

ruling that Bainimarama's regime was unlawful. He set a timetable of five years for elections. He denied he was acting at the behest of Bainimarama.

The next day, Bainimarama was sworn in as prime minister and quickly tightened his grip on the country, posting censors in newsrooms and roadblocks on the capital's streets.

"Emergency regulations are in force," Bainimarama said in a national address late Saturday. "However, these regulations are only a precautionary measure."

Military-backed "information officers" stood watch in newspaper, news radio and television offices to prevent the publication or broadcast of any reports that, Bainimarama said, "could cause disorder." Police were granted extra detention powers.

The *Fiji Times*, the country's main daily, published its Sunday and Monday editions with several blank spaces where stories about the crisis would have appeared. "The stories on this page could not be published because of government restrictions," read the only words that appeared on Sunday's page two.

Fiji's main television station, Fiji One, refused to broadcast its nightly news bulletin on Sunday, instead showing a simple message written across a black screen: "Viewers please be advised that there will be no 6 p.m. news tonight."

The network later informed viewers that it could not present some prepared stories because of the new censorship regulations.

The only political news now coming out of Fiji is on Internet blogs.

A blog website, Intelligentsiya, reports that *Fiji Times* publisher, Australian Anne Fussell, would be deported on Tuesday or Wednesday for allegedly breaching visa conditions. Her predecessors Rex Gardner and



Bainimarama

Evan Han-nah were deported under similar circumstances.

Fiji is expected to be suspended from the Commonwealth and the Pacific Islands

Forum following the developments, which have been heavily condemned by regional heads, the United States and the UN.

The nation's Ministry of Information said in a statement that there would be "a slight disruption" to the country's courts Tuesday because Iloilo was still in the process of appointing new judges and

magistrates. The appointments were expected "soon."

Court staff were instructed to report for duty, and people scheduled to appear in court Tuesday were told to do so.

The Fiji Law Society, meanwhile, asked all fired members of the judiciary to turn up for work.

Peter Williams, a leading

New Zealand lawyer who has tried cases in Fiji's courts, said any imposed judicial system would be "a sham."

"The independence of the judiciary is the most important quality of all. How can any person become a judge if that person is to agree to be a slave to a pirate government?" he told TVOne News. *(With NZPA/ONE News)*

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MELL SENOKO	020E	4/11 Sat	4/9 Thu	4/9 Thu	4/7 Tue	4/4 Sat	4/17 Fri	4/13 Mon	4/12 Sun	4/5 Sun	4/5 Sun	4/13 Mon	4/17 Fri	4/19 Sun	4/21 Tue
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Inbound from Asia	Voyage No.	ETA	ETD	ETA	ETA	ETA	ETA	ETA							
		Guam		Saipan	Yap	Koror	GenSan	Davao	Cebu	Hongkong	Kaoshiung	Busan	Yokohama	Manila	Singapore
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MELL SENOKO	020E	4/25 Sat	4/26 Sun	4/26 Sun	4/28 Tue	4/30 Thu	5/2 Sat	5/3 Sun	5/5 Tue	5/8 Fri	5/9 Sat	5/14 Thu	6/2 Tue	5/31 Sun	5/13 Wed
MELL SENTOSA	019E	5/2 Sat	5/3 Sun	5/3 Sun	SKIP	5/7 Thu	5/9 Sat	5/10 Sun	5/12 Tue	5/15 Fri	5/16 Sat	5/21 Thu	6/9 Tue	6/7 Sun	5/20 Wed
MELL SINGAPORE	032E	5/9 Sat	5/10 Sun	5/10 Sun	5/12 Tue	5/14 Thu	5/16 Sat	5/17 Sun	5/19 Tue	5/22 Fri	5/23 Sat	5/28 Thu	6/16 Tue	6/14 Sun	5/27 Wed
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# Opinion

## Saipan Tribune

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## EDITORIAL

### Cold calculators

The pound-foolishness of Virginia's Republican lawmakers—who would rather give lip service than genuine financial relief to the state's unemployed—was on display in Richmond again last week. The GOP-controlled House of Delegates rejected \$125 million in federal stimulus money that would have provided unemployment benefits to thousands of jobless Virginians. The reasoning, in the shortsighted eyes of all but two House Republicans, was that accepting the federal assistance would undermine the state's business-friendly reputation. Instead, the party faithful managed to bolster Virginia's dubious reputation as a provider of some of the lowest unemployment benefits in the country.

Virginia employers pay an average of \$98 per worker per year for unemployment insurance. The national average is \$258. The federal stimulus proposal would have changed Virginia's unemployment system to allow thousands of residents who work part time or are enrolled in approved job training programs to be eligible to receive benefits. That's serious help for a state with 300,000 unemployed people and a jobless rate of 6.7 percent. At least the only two Republican delegates who voted for the proposal understood the need for relief; in their Southwest and Southside Virginia districts, unemployment rates are in double digits.

The GOP naysayers argued that once the stimulus funds were exhausted, state businesses would be stuck with the tab, which they claim would lead to fewer jobs and other world-ending consequences; it's better, they insist, to serve up more business incentives and hang on for the prosperous days to come. Helping businesses certainly should be a part of addressing lean times, but the federal stimulus relief plan pushed by Gov. Timothy M. Kaine, D., would not have wrecked the business climate. As he said, there are "an awful lot of people who are hurting in Virginia, and the message to them seemed to be: 'We don't care. Fend for yourself.'"

As reported by staff writer Anita Kumar, Mr. Kaine has hinted that he might try to find another way to accept the federal assistance. He should.

(c) 2009, The Washington Post



## The power of horror in Rwanda

**D**uring a gruesome three months in 1994, about 800,000 Rwandans were murdered as part of a calculated effort by a group of Hutu extremists to eradicate the country's Tutsi population.

The genocide ended only with the military victory of the Rwandan Patriotic Front, a rebel group founded by Rwandan exiles who ousted the Hutu extremists. The front's austere and savvy commander, Paul Kagame, now serves as Rwanda's president.

In the 15 years since the extremist government was ousted, Rwanda has become an island of stability in a volatile region. The economy is booming, the distinction between Hutu and Tutsi is officially downplayed, and ethnic and political violence has been largely eradicated. Kigali, the capital of a country that likes to portray itself as the Switzerland of Africa, is orderly and manicured.

But Rwanda has a long way to go. Despite the facade of occasional elections, the government essentially runs a one-party state. And, ironically, it is the genocide that has provided the government with a cover for repression. Under the guise of preventing another genocide, the government displays a marked intolerance of the most basic forms of dissent.

There is no meaningful opposition. The press is cowed. Non-governmental organizations are under attack. When parliamentary elections held last September produced a whopping 92 percent victory for Kagame's ruling party, evidence collected by the European Union and Rwandan monitors suggested that the government inflated the percentage of opposition votes to avoid the appearance of an embarrassing Soviet-style acclamation.

One tool of repression has been the "gacaca" courts—informal tribunals run without trained lawyers or judges—which the government established at the community level to try alleged perpetrators of the genocide.

The original impetus was understandable: Rwandan prisons were overpopulated with tens of thousands of alleged "genocidaires" and no prospect of the country's regular courts trying them within any reasonable time. The gacaca courts provided a quick, if informal, way to resolve these cases. In theory, members of the community would know who had or had not been involved in the genocide, but in reality the lack of involvement by legal professionals has left the proceedings open to manipulation.

Today, 15 years after the genocide, people are still coming forward and accusing their neighbors of complicity in it, suggesting that gacaca has morphed into a forum for settling personal vendettas or silencing dissident voices. The prospect of suddenly being ac-

By KENNETH ROTH  
*Special to the Los Angeles Times*

Roth is executive director of Human Rights Watch.



cused of past participation in the genocide, with little legal recourse against concocted charges, is enough to make people keep their heads down in the political arena.

The government says it will close the gacaca courts in June. But the government has another tool of control—the crime of "genocide ideology." Formally adopted in 2008, the law outlawing "genocide ideology" is written so broadly that it can encompass even the most innocuous comments. As many Rwandans have discovered, disagreeing with the government or making unpopular statements can easily be portrayed as genocide ideology, punishable by sentences of 10 years to 25 years. That leaves little political space for dissent.

Pressing the government to amend these repressive laws and practices is not easy, as I discovered in recent meetings with senior officials from the prime minister on down. They are understandably sensitive about political invective that can lead to renewed ethnic slaughter, but the public faces the danger that any political criticism of the government will be construed as fomenting genocide.

Western governments, guilt-ridden at not having stopped the genocide and impressed by Rwanda's stability and economic growth, have been all too willing to close their eyes to this repressive sleight of hand.

But Kagame's strategy is shortsighted and dangerous. He claims to be building a society in which citizens are only Rwandans, not Tutsi or Hutu, but his repression of civil society means that avenues to forge alternative bonds among people are limited. That makes it more likely that in moments of tension Rwandans will resort to their ethnic identity, as so often happens in repressive societies.

The challenge for world leaders 15 years after Rwanda's genocide is to overcome guilt and look beyond the enforced peace to convince Kagame and his government to build the foundation for lasting stability.

The best way to prevent another genocide is to insist that Kagame stop manipulating the last one.

**EDITORIAL POLICY**

The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, Century Insurance Building, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to [editor@saipantribune.com](mailto:editor@saipantribune.com); or through our website at [www.saipantribune.com](http://www.saipantribune.com).

## Saipanpreneur Profile: The e-Center! (that's 'e' for expansion!)

*The only way to take control of your life, raise your standard of living and move beyond merely surviving is to create your own unique product or service that you offer to increasing numbers of people in exchange for the things of value that you desire. This simple formula applies to countries as well as people. A self-sufficient economy has its own products or services of value to export to the world. Similarly, a self-sufficient individual has something of value to exchange in the global marketplace. That thing of value is based on your natural talent, skill, or interest—in other words, your passion!*

**W**hile businesses everywhere are closing their doors, laying off workers, cutting back on inventory, reducing salaries and hours, one business on Saipan has a slightly different strategy: they're expanding by launching a second location!

Almost exactly one year ago (see *Saipan Tribune* archives, May 28, 2008), I interviewed Bernie Mabalot, sales agent and tech guru of the Inkbox, the printer ink/toner cartridge refilling station at the south end of Middle Road.

Bernie is also a savvy business strategist, who leads a small team of people to carry out his marketing, public relations and sales ideas to help grow the business. And grow it, they did. On the one-year anniversary of Inkbox's launch, a new business, the e-Center, opened on March 14, 2009.

You might have seen the bright blue logo further north on Middle Road, across the street from Quick Print. (*If you're driving north on Middle Road, it will be on your left.*)

So, a year later, I'm sitting once again with Bernie (who now has the distinction of being the first to have a double feature in the Saipanpreneur column). First, for those who do not know, Bernie is originally from Manila, has a wife and two children in the Philippines, and has been on Saipan for the past four years.

**Walt: Refresh our memories, Bernie, what does the Inkbox do?**

**e-Center:** A lot of people don't know that rather than buy new printer cartridges and toners for your printers, you can refill them. The Inkbox offers printing supplies and support, as well as other printing consumables, refilling and remanufacturing of toners and printer cartridges. We do that for the public as well as private corporations.

**Walt: Now then, what's the new e-Center all about?**

**e-Center:** First let me explain why it exists. Since we are a technology-based company, we deal with people all the time who have questions. Technology is so fast-paced, and there are so many gadgets and options, we realized that what people really need is advice. *What's the best printer to purchase? Is this technology right for my home or business? What's the most economical way to do this?* We educate people because there's a lot of confusion in the market.

So, through the e-Center, what we're doing is looking to maximize the use of these technologies within the market, and help people choose the right machines and technology for their business as well as personal use.

They don't need to buy from us. They can get what they want from Megabyte, PC outlet and White Coconut.

We don't charge for advice, or a diagnostic fee.

We're actually a consumer advocate!

**Walt: A consumer advocate? Explain.**

**e-Center:** Let me give you an example:

Because we are in the industry, we know there are two particular models of printers being discontinued by Cannon and Hewlett Packard. Because we know the industry, we know these printers are more reliable, have a bigger ink tank, and a longer lifespan. They discontinued them, and are putting on the market replacements that are more expensive and more unreliable. So, we reserved an inventory of about 60 pieces of the [soon-to-be] discontinued models, which will be shipped to us here on Saipan. We review the specifications, and make sure we'll have the right ink, and the right parts for at least three years. So, even though people everywhere else will

have only the new models to choose from, here on Saipan we'll be supporting a better model. So, we're an advocate, looking to get you the best products, and we stay in business by giving you long-term support for those products.

We are trying to offer what the market is losing here: being consumer oriented. We want to give you the best choices.

**Walt: Now that's great for the public, but how does e-Center benefit?**

**e-Center:** This is just the first month of our launch. So, we can't accommodate all of the customers' needs right away, but as we grow, we find out where the opportunity is, and what customers want and need.

**Walt: What else does or will the e-Center offer?**

**e-Center:** Since this is a second location, we also offer the same consumables [printer cartridges, toners, etc.] that are available at the inkbox, now a little closer to Garapan.

We are advancing step by step. As we educate and teach people, we will then have a more complete inventory and look for the opportunity that exists. Eventually, we'll offer computer sales and repairs, parts, document printing, services and support, but we are not competing with Megabyte, PC Outlet, or White Coconut. They have the market dominance, and we need all of them once people make their choices.

We don't want to undercut the competition; we want to augment the market. The other companies on island set the standard. They have the reputation. They have the integrity. But one company can't



Bernie Mabalot stands in front of the e-Center, which is located on Middle Road, across the street from Quick Print.

carry all the inventory. What they can't carry individually, we can carry as a group.

Meanwhile, the consumer can take advantage of that and get free advice, guidance and information and more choices.

**Walt: It reminds me of the clothing, lighting, restaurant and diamond districts in New York, where vendors selling the same product all cluster in one area of town. It's a strategy that focuses more attention on the industry, expands the category and generates more activity overall for everyone to benefit.**

**e-Center:** Yes. We're operating under the same concept of mutualism. We are all in the same industry. We need to maintain the standard that they have started, and we need to cooperate with each other. The whole industry [Technology Applications support] will benefit.

**Walt: You're expanding while others are contracting. What's your secret?**

**e-Center:** We run our business using a more entrepreneurial approach. We are a smaller group doing the decision-making and the doing. We don't have excess fat, employees that we don't need, resources that we don't need. We are able to keep our inventory lean.

of you are now just waking up and realizing that vandalism is rampant in our community. After years of vandalism and graffiti affecting homes, public buildings, schools, library, bus stops, commercial buildings, and so forth and it's only now that you want vandalism stopped and the laws respected?

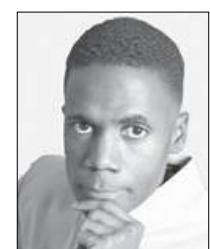
We say toughen the laws on vandalism and graffiti and hold the parents and guardians responsible and accountable for any minors caught in the act. Have the responsible adults pay for or replace the damage incurred by such acts. If a minor is involved, discipline the

### The Saipanpreneur Project

*Creating economic success for the CNMI*

**By WALT F.J. GOODRIDGE**

*Special to the Saipan Tribune*



*Send article suggestions, entrepreneur nominations and feedback about this article to [walt@passionprofit.com](mailto:walt@passionprofit.com).*

Our employees are dedicated to reaching the goals we set.

Secondly, the goodwill of inkbox™ has already been established by giving the customer good warranties and meeting and exceeding their expectations, so they keep coming back.

Thirdly: our focus. When people get into trouble, they want to blame the circumstances, but it is the strategies and the tactics that really matter.

Also, good support from your partners, and constant prayer!

There's really no secret.

At the inkbox, we had a lot of customers who are looking for information on computers and gadgets, and we are not able to accommodate that. So that's why we're expanding to fill that need and educate people.

As you mentioned in your book, Walt, the driving force is that we are actually running a passion-centered business, like you talk about.

As a result, we are freer, and we can be as daring as we want to be.

**Walt: Any grand opening specials?**

**e-Center:** At e-Center, people can get information about computers, printers, and gadgets like e-readers, any technology before they spend their money. Also, we'll be having the special sale on those printers, and computers starting about a month from now. People should e-mail us at [ecenterllc@gmail.com](mailto:ecenterllc@gmail.com) or call 233-2009. We'd also like people to come to the store with their questions.

If they come to the store, they can get free advice, fill out a survey, and we have free wi-fi Internet access! We don't charge a consultation or diagnostic fee.

**Walt: Any final words of advice?**

**e-Center:** Technology is so fast-paced that people are getting into trouble sometimes buying because of a company's good marketing campaign, or just because it's something new they think they really need. In order to make it through the economic situation, we have to educate and expand ourselves, but also work together so we all benefit as a group.

**Walt: Well said. When the race is about survival, sometimes the best way to "win" that race is not to outrun your competition, but to bring the finish line closer so everyone gets there together!**



**Note:** Ever wanted to direct your friends and family to a set of websites that said good things about Saipan? Do what I do: send them to [www.bestofsaipan.com](http://www.bestofsaipan.com)!

**Note:** Fans and followers of *Chicken Feathers and Garlic Skin: Diary of a Chinese Garment Factory Girl on Saipan* may now find copies at Bookseller Bookstore in the Joe-Ten Plaza in Susupe or on Amazon.com. Hurry, there's a limited supply!

**Note:** For more tips on overcoming your fears, acting on your ideas, changing the game, and creating a passion-centered lifestyle, visit [www.passionprofit.com](http://www.passionprofit.com)!



Until next week, remember, success is a journey, not a destination!

**Walt F.J. Goodridge is author of 12 books including *Turn Your Passion Into Profit*. Walt offers coaching and workshops to help people pursue and profit from their passions. Originally from the island of Jamaica, Walt has grown several successful businesses in the US, and now makes his home here in Saipan. To learn more about the Saipanpreneur Project and Walt's philosophy and formula visit [www.saipanpreneur.com](http://www.saipanpreneur.com) and [www.passionprofit.com](http://www.passionprofit.com).**

minor by sending him or her to schools to speak to students why they did such acts and why it should be stopped.

The laws against defacing of public buildings or privately owned properties should be stricter and jail time longer, to include stiffer fines.

Education and prevention is the key. Everything is preventable.

**Gregorio Cruz Jr.**

*Taotao Tano CNMI Inc.*

### Letter to the Editor

## Vandalism and graffiti

Members of our Legislative Branch and past elected official who are now running for office are whining and asking vandals to respect the law. What law? The slap in the wrist law?

Just because your political signboards were vandalized, some

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

# The Weather

## 5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.

▲88° ▾77°

▲87° ▾76°

▲87° ▾76°

▲87° ▾76°

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## Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Sunny	▲85 ▾76
Palau	Showers	▲85 ▾77
Yap	Showers	▲87 ▾77
Chuuk	Rain	▲88 ▾78
Pohnpei	Rain	▲85 ▾76
Kosrae	Showers	▲89 ▾79
Majuro	Showers	▲85 ▾79

## Around The Globe

Auckland	Cloudy	▲67 ▾53
Beijing	Mostly Cloudy	▲66 ▾41
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲79 ▾70
Honolulu	Mostly Cloudy	▲79 ▾69
London	Rain	▲64 ▾50
Los Angeles	Mostly Sunny	▲66 ▾50
Manila	Thundershowers	▲90 ▾79
Melbourne	Showers	▲62 ▾50
Miami	Thundershowers	▲86 ▾67
New York	Rain	▲50 ▾43
Osaka	Cloudy	▲67 ▾55
Paris	Showers	▲67 ▾48
Pusan	Mostly Cloudy	▲73 ▾54
Rome	Sunny	▲71 ▾53
Salem	Partly Sunny	▲54 ▾36
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	▲55 ▾46
Seoul	Rain	▲59 ▾45
Tokyo	Showers	▲69 ▾53
Washington, DC	Rain	▲50 ▾39

## Tides

Saipan Harbor	
12:11 AM Today	High Tide: 1.7 Feet
5:28 AM Today	Low Tide: 1.3 Feet
9:59 AM Today	High Tide: 1.7 Feet
5:44 PM Today	Low Tide: 0.0 Feet

## Sunrise/Sunset

	Today	6:03 AM	6:31 PM	Today	11:30 PM	10:00 AM
	Thursday	6:02 AM	6:32 PM	Thursday		10:52 AM
	Friday	6:02 AM	6:32 PM	Friday	12:17 AM	11:44 AM
	Saturday	6:01 AM	6:32 PM	Saturday	1:00 AM	12:35 PM
	Sunday	6:00 AM	6:32 PM	Sunday	1:41 AM	1:25 PM

## Moonrise/Moonset

	Today	6:03 AM	6:31 PM	Today	11:30 PM	10:00 AM
	Thursday	6:02 AM	6:32 PM	Thursday		10:52 AM
	Friday	6:02 AM	6:32 PM	Friday	12:17 AM	11:44 AM
	Saturday	6:01 AM	6:32 PM	Saturday	1:00 AM	12:35 PM
	Sunday	6:00 AM	6:32 PM	Sunday	1:41 AM	1:25 PM

## GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

### PICTURES

#### ISLAND SNAPSHOT

Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.

#### BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.

#### BUSINESS

Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.

#### SAMUT SARI

Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.

#### TRAVELOGUE

Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

#### CAMPUS BULLETIN

Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

### REQUIREMENTS

#### For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

#### For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

the name of contact person, and a phone number.

- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

### HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee\_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
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- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan.

To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747.

### POLICY

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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

## FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MARCH 12, 2009

### DEPARTURES

#### Saipan-Rota

CO9597 11:50am 12:25pm 1,7

#### Saipan-Guam

CO9317 5:00am 5:50am Daily  
CO9318 8:30am 9:20am Daily  
CO9597 11:50am 1:20pm 1,7 via Rota  
CO9601 12:30pm 1:20pm 2,3,4,5,6  
CO9603 3:30pm 4:20pm Daily  
CO9605 6:30pm 7:20pm Daily  
CO9599 9:30pm 10:20pm Daily

#### Saipan-Narita

NW 099 5:00am 7:35am Daily  
NW 078 8:20am 1:30pm 2,3,4,5,6,7  
NW 075 4:55pm 7:30pm Daily

#### Guam-Narita

NW 73 4:10pm 7:00pm Daily  
NW 81 3:55pm 6:55pm Daily

#### Saipan-Osaka

OZ 119 4:00am 6:40am 1,4,6

#### Guam-Osaka

NW 79 4:45pm 7:35pm Daily

#### Saipan-Nagoya

NW 078 8:20am 11:05am Daily

#### Guam-Nagoya

NW 23 4:30pm 7:20pm Daily

#### Saipan-Incheon

OZ 604 2:10am 6:00am 1  
OZ 604 2:40am 6:30am 2,3,4,5,6,7  
OZ 119 4:00am 11:25am 1,4,6 via Osaka  
OZ 606 3:20pm 7:00pm Daily

#### Saipan-Busan

OZ 608 3:20am 6:50am 1,4,5,7

#### Saipan-Shanghai

FM 844 2:50am 5:40am 2,6

#### Rota-Guam

CO 9597 12:50pm 1:20pm 1,7

#### Guam-Palau

CO 953 7:40pm 8:40pm 1,7

#### Palau-Manila

CO 893 5:50pm 6:50pm 3,5

#### Guam-Manila

CO 893 5:50pm 9:10pm 3,5 via Koror

CO 933 8:00pm 9:40pm Daily

PR 111 6:00am 7:50am 1,2,4,6,7

#### Nagoya-Manila

NW 71 8:40pm 11:55pm Daily

#### Incheon-Hongkong

# Red Cross celebrates Walkathon success



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Participants in the American Red Cross Walkathon, held March 28 on Saipan, Rota and Tinian, mug for the camera before the start of the walk.

With more than 3,000 people attending the March 28 activities on Saipan, Rota and Tinian, this year's Red Cross Walkathon was the most successful walk in the 23-year history of the event.

"We are so thankful for the community support," said Larry Lee, NMI Chapter board chairman. "We worked hard to create

an exciting, memorable event that is only possible through the generous support of our walkers, schools, donors, and all the volunteers that donate their time."

Winners received prize packages that included gift certificates donated by the business community. This year there were many prize categories that

included the following winners:

- School with the largest number of walkers: Garapan Elementary School, 130 walkers;
- School with the largest number of donations: San Antonio Elementary School, \$3,843.26
- 1st to 4th largest student donations: Deveney Dela Cruz, Nathania Tan, Jason Briones, and Franch-

esca Tomokane. Each student wins an Acer laptop computer;

- 5th to 7th largest student donations: Jessica Soll, Kennedy Izuka, Joseph Rosario Jr.
- Individual-non-student with the largest number of donations: Elias Seman, \$431.75; Ian Hutchinson, \$200; and Arissa Homchume, \$200;

■ Largest corporate group of walkers: Fiesta Resort and Spa

- Largest non-profit group of walkers: Tsunami Swim Club
- Best Aid Station: Western Union
- School coordinator for most walkers: Melisa Mendez and Lizelle Amirez
- School coordinator for most donations: Rita Ann T Carreon.

School coordinator for most walkers: Melisa Mendez and Lizelle Amirez

■ School coordinator for most donations: Rita Ann T Carreon.

American Red Cross NMI Chapter volunteers, officials, and staff pose for a souvenir picture before the start of the walk. The event attracted over 3,000 participants.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

FBI names new agent in charge for Honolulu

**HONOLULU, Hawaii** (AP)—The Federal Bureau of Investigation says Charlene Thornton has been named special agent in charge of its Honolulu Division.

FBI Director Robert Mueller selected Thornton to succeed Janet L. Kamerman as head of the office that covers Hawaii, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands and much of the Pacific Rim.

Thornton comes to Hawaii from the San Francisco Division, where she was also special agent in charge. She joined the FBI in 1979, and has also worked in San Diego, Phoenix and Birmingham, Ala.

The FBI announced in December that Kamerman would be assigned to Washington to become associate executive assistant director of the agency's Human Resources Branch. She had arrived in Hawaii in 2007 after serving as a special assistant to Mueller.

## BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS

Special birthday greetings go out to Edinna Aldan Cepeda, who is celebrating her 13th birthday today, April 15, 2009. Pictured here with her is her grandmother, Marcy P. Cepeda. "Wishing you the best birthday ever, Edinna, and may the Lord bless you and keep you safe always. We love you very much." From Dad, Mom, Lys, Patty, Melshy and the family.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO  
Happy birthday Mom/Grandma Mertie Kani, shown here posing with grandson Leo in Honolulu, and happy anniversary to both you and Daddy! May the Lord Bless you both with many more years! Greetings coming from your kiddos/rascals from Saipan, Japan, Hawaii, and Virginia!



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO  
Happy birthday to our Nida Mae who celebrates her 7th year today. We love you baby! Greetings come from Mommy, Daddy, Teosy, Thadeus, and Mahya Nicole.



**U.S. Customs and Border Protection**

Mission focused

## Safeguard America at Our Ports of Entry

**U.S. Customs and Border Protection Officers** are the nation's first line of defense, assigned to our international airports, seaports and land border crossings throughout the United States and along the borders of Mexico and Canada. They play a critical role in the nation's security: preventing terrorists from entering our country, guarding against criminal activities including weapons trafficking, drug smuggling and money laundering, and inspecting travelers for any illegal, prohibited or dangerous goods.

**Can you wear the uniform of a U.S. Customs and Border Protection Officer?** It takes outstanding people skills, sound judgment and a firm resolve to join our ranks, in addition to these requirements:

- Be a U.S. Citizen with 3+ years residency
- Be between the ages of 18-36
- Successfully pass a background investigation
- Have 3+ years general work experience

## NOW HIRING

**Customs and Border Protection Officer, GS-5/7** for CNMI locations of Saipan, Rota and Tinian.

**Open Period:** Monday, April 6, 2009 through Sunday, April 26, 2009. Apply online at [www.cbp.gov/careers](http://www.cbp.gov/careers)

# Business

## Economy dampens hope of a comfortable retirement

**DES MOINES, Iowa** (AP)—Rising costs and uncertainty about the economy have workers less confident in their ability to save enough money to retire comfortably, say the authors of a new study released Tuesday.

Even though workers are saving more and expecting to work longer to improve their chances of a happy retirement, there's still a disconnect. The survey shows many are failing to plan appropriately and making incorrect assumptions about retirement income.

The new survey by the non-partisan Employee Benefit Research Institute reveals only 13 percent of U.S. workers say they're very confident they'll have enough money to retire comfortably.

"Concerns about the poor economy coupled with the losses that have recently been experienced in the stock market have resulted in the lowest percentage (of a confident outlook) since the start of the survey 19 years ago," said Jack VanDerhei, one of the survey's authors and the EBRI research director.



Attorney Bryan Elliott looks over bankruptcy files at his office in Hickory, N.C., Wednesday, April 1, 2009.

"But the good news is, I really do think this will be a wake up call for many people who had false optimism in the past."

Another 41 percent of workers said they're somewhat confident of having enough savings for re-

tirement, down two percentage points from the year before. Only 20 percent of people already retired say they're very confident they'll be financially secure. That's just half of the 40 percent from the survey a year earlier.

It's no surprise that most survey respondents said the economy was largely behind their pessimism.

With the dour mood about retirement prospects comes some behavioral changes that

advisers and retirement planners say may be one of the positives coming out of the economic downturn.

The survey shows 81 percent of those who have lost confidence in having enough money to retire say they are spending less. The survey also shows 65 percent of workers say they are currently saving money for retirement.

"One strategy would have been to roll up into a ball and somehow put your head in the sand and ignore this is happening," said Dan Houston, president of retirement and investor services at Principal Financial Group Inc., an underwriter of the survey. Workers have not done that, however. He said people are beginning to understand a secure retirement means saving much more than they have been.

The average worker with an employer-sponsored retirement plan puts aside 7 percent, which is about half of what today's worker would need to live a comparable lifestyle in retirement, Houston said.

## Oil drops to near \$49 amid weak demand outlook

**SINGAPORE** (AP)—Oil prices slipped to near \$49 a barrel Tuesday in Asia as traders looked to U.S. bank results this week for signs a severe recession may have bottomed but remained pessimistic that demand for crude can recover in the near term.

Benchmark crude for May delivery fell 78 cents to \$49.27 a barrel by midday in Singapore in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract on Monday dropped \$2.19 to settle at \$50.05.

Oil prices have traded near \$50 a barrel for the last two weeks after jumping from below \$35 in February as investors struggle to gauge the health of a global economy reeling from its worst slowdown in decades.

Traders have been cheered by early signs that U.S. banks may be stabilizing. Goldman Sachs reported Monday a profit of \$1.66 billion for the first quarter, beating Wall Street's earnings expectations, and a huge improvement over the \$2.29 billion loss that Goldman reported for the fourth quarter.

Goldman's news, released a day earlier than anticipated, came days after Wells Fargo & Co. said it expected to report record first-quarter earnings of \$3 billion, well above Wall Street's estimates. Banking giants Citigroup Inc. and Bank of America Corp. will report earnings later this week.

## Small cars get poor marks in collision tests

**WASHINGTON** (AP)—Micro cars can give motorists top-notch fuel efficiency at a competitive price, but the insurance industry says they don't fare too well in collisions with larger vehicles.

In crash tests released Tuesday, the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety found that drivers of 2009 versions of the Smart "fortwo," Honda Fit and Toyota Yaris could face significant leg and head injuries in

severe front-end crashes with larger, mid-size vehicles.

"There are good reasons people buy mini cars. They're more affordable, and they use less gas. But the safety trade-offs are clear from our new tests," said Adrian Lund, the institute's president.

Automakers who manufacture the small cars said the tests simulated a high-speed crash that rarely happens on the road. They also said the tests rehashed

past insurance industry arguments against tougher fuel efficiency requirements. The institute has raised questions about whether stricter gas mileage rules, which are being developed by the government, might lead to smaller, lighter vehicles that could be less safe.

"If you were to take that argument to the nth degree, we should all be driving 18-wheelers. And the trend in society today is just

the opposite," said Dave Schembri, president of Smart USA.

Sales of small cars soared when gas prices topped \$4 per gallon last year but have fallen off as gasoline has retreated to about \$2 a gallon and the economic downturn has slowed car sales. The small cars are affordable—prices of the three cars tested range from about \$12,000 to \$18,000—and typically achieve 30 miles per gallon or more.

## Mexico slams Burger King for 'whopper' of insult

**MEXICO CITY** (AP)—Mexico is protesting what it says is a whopper of an insult. An advertisement for Burger King's Texican Whopper burger that has run in Europe shows a small wrestler dressed in a cape re-

sembling a Mexican flag. The wrestler teams up with a lanky American cowboy almost twice his height to illustrate the cross-border blend of flavors.

"The taste of Texas with a little spicy Mexican," a narrator's

voice says. The taller cowboy boosts the wrestler up to reach high shelves and helps clean tall windows, while the Mexican helps the cowboy open a jar.

Mexico's ambassador to Spain said Monday he has writ-

ten a letter to Burger King's offices in that nation objecting to the ad and asking that it be removed. Jorge Zermenio told Radio Formula that the ads "improperly use the stereotyped image of a Mexican."

### BUSINESS BRIEFS

#### Bankruptcies surge despite law meant to curb them

**RALEIGH, N.C.** (AP)—The number of U.S. businesses and individuals declaring bankruptcy is rising with a vengeance amid the recession, despite a three-year-old federal law that made it much tougher for Americans to escape their debts, an Associated Press analysis found. "There's no end in sight," said bankruptcy lawyer Bryan Elliott of Hickory, N.C., who is working seven days a week and scheduling prospective clients a month in advance. "To be doing this well and having this much business, it is depressing. It's not a laugh-a-minute job." Nearly 1.2

million debtors filed for bankruptcy in the past 12 months, according to federal court records collected and analyzed by the AP. Last month, 130,831 sought bankruptcy protection—an increase of 46 percent over March 2008 and 81 percent over the same month in 2007.

#### GM recalling 1.5M vehicles over potential fires

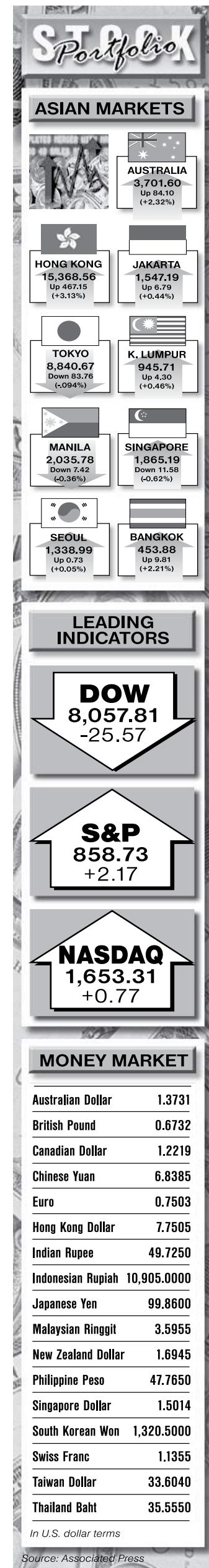
**WASHINGTON** (AP)—General Motors Corp. is recalling 1.5 million vehicles because of potential engine fires. GM says there have been no reports of any fires or injuries. Some of the recalled vehicles are no longer in production. The recall includes

the 1998-1999 Oldsmobile Intrigue, the 1997-2003 Pontiac Grand Prix, 1997-2003 Buick Regal, and the 1998-2003 Chevrolet Lumina, Monte Carlo and Impala. It involves vehicles with a 3.8-liter V6 engine. The government says drops of oil could fall into the exhaust system and cause a fire in the engine. GM spokesman Kerry Christopher says it was a precautionary measure for consumers.

#### Investors take Madoff to bankruptcy court

**NEW YORK** (AP)—A small group of investors took Bernard Madoff to bankruptcy court on Monday, saying the disgraced fi-

nancier bilked them out of nearly \$64 million. A Manhattan judge cleared the way for the newly filed Chapter 7 petition last week by granting a request from the same investors to lift a temporary order barring bankruptcy for Madoff. They had argued that a bankruptcy case was needed to protect their rights amid an ongoing scramble to seize his assets. Madoff, 70, pleaded guilty last month to federal charges his secretive investment advisory service actually was a multibillion Ponzi scheme in which he paid longtime clients with money from new ones. He is jailed, awaiting a June sentencing for charges that carry a sentence of up to 150 years in prison.



# Nation

## Wife: Ship captain calls US military 'real heroes'

BURLINGTON, Vt. (AP)—The wife of sea captain Richard Phillips says her husband considers the U.S. military the "real heroes" of his ordeal.

Hoarse from laryngitis and making her first public appearance since Phillips' dramatic rescue at sea, Andrea Phillips, 51, thanked the military, supporters and President Barack Obama, who approved the sniper operation that killed three pirates.

"You have no idea, but with Richard saved, you all just gave me the best Easter ever," she said in a statement read by the family's spokeswoman.

Mrs. Phillips was flanked by her 19-year-old daughter, Mariah; 20-year-old son, Daniel; and the captain's mother, Ginny Phillips.

With Andrea Phillips' voice cracking, Alison McColl, a representative of the captain's employer, read the statement as Phillips held hands with her daughter.

McColl said Phillips had spoken to her husband earlier in the day.

She quoted him as saying: "I am just a small part of this. The real heroes of the story are the U.S. military. They are the most dedicated, professional and capable group around. We should all reach out and thank them."

Phillips said the "constant outpouring of support, prayers and yellow ribbons" gave the family strength.

"These past five days were extremely difficult," she said. "We did not know what Richard was enduring while being held hostage on the lifeboat, and that was really the hardest part—the wondering. My family and closest friends held onto our faith



Andrea Phillips, the wife of Capt. Richard Phillips, center, talks during a news conference in South Burlington, Vt., Monday, April 13, 2009. AP

knowing that Richard would come home.

"At times, we smiled when we thought of Richard would tell the story, with his trademark sense of humor," she said.

Richard Phillips was rescued Sunday when U.S. Navy snipers shot and killed the three Somali pirates who were holding him at gunpoint. He escaped unharmed. A fourth pirate surrendered earlier Sunday and could face

life in a U.S. prison.

It's still unknown when or how Phillips will return home. The family and McColl took no questions and rushed from the hotel ballroom where they appeared for the media.

"We're all looking forward to Richard's return, when the family will get a chance to tell their story together," Phillips' statement said.

## US eases Cuban travel, money restraints

**WASHINGTON** (AP)—In a measured break with a half-century of U.S. policy toward communist Cuba, the Obama administration lifted restrictions Monday on Cuban-Americans who want to travel and send money to their island homeland.

In a further gesture of openness, U.S. telecommunications firms were freed to seek business there, too. But the broader U.S. trade embargo remained in place.

The White House portrayed its changes, which fulfilled one of President Barack Obama's campaign promises, as a path to promoting personal freedom in one of the few remaining communist nations. They also marked another major step away from the foreign policy priorities of the Bush administration.

But the moves fell far short of the more drastic policy adjustments that some—including Republican Sen. Richard Lugar—have argued are required to promote U.S. interests in Latin America and to bring about change in Cuba. For most Americans, Cuba remains the only country in the world their government prohibits them from visiting—a barrier to potential travelers as well as to the Cuban tourist industry that would like to see them.

Cubans welcomed the changes but said more should be done.

"It's help that the people really need," Fermina Gonzalez, a 46-year-old housewife in the leafy Havana neighborhood of Vedado, said of the ending of limits on money sent by Cuban-Americans. "Right now, we have to work lots of jobs just to make ends meet."

## DA: Rape may be alleged in Calif. girl's slaying

**SAN FRANCISCO** (AP)—Prosecutors said Monday they may include rape and molestation allegations in their murder charge against the woman suspected of killing an 8-year-old Northern California girl and putting her body in a suitcase.

Melissa Huckaby, a 28-year-old Sunday school teacher, was arrested Friday on suspicion of kidnapping and murdering Sandra Cantu.

Formal charges have not yet been filed, but San Joaquin County Deputy District Attorney Robert Himmelblau told The Associated Press that a murder charge against Huckaby could include the special circumstances of rape with a foreign object, lewd and lascivious conduct with a child and murder in the course of a kidnapping.

A conviction on any of the special circumstances would make Huckaby eligible for the death penalty or life in prison without parole, Himmelblau said. The district attorney's office has not determined whether it will seek the death penalty, he said.

Sandra disappeared on March 27, and pictures of her were posted all over Tracy, a city of 78,000 people about 60 miles east of San Francisco. Sandra's body was found April 6 by farmworkers, stuffed in a suitcase in an irrigation pond.

Police have not said how, where or why Sandra was killed. The girl was a playmate of Huckaby's 5-year-old daughter, Madison.

Himmelblau wouldn't provide details

When her husband does return, it'll be cause for celebration in Underhill, a community of about 3,100 residents that's part bedroom community and part farming area. But don't look for a ticker-tape parade.

"Maybe, being Underhill, we could have a barbecue or a pig roast—when it warms up a little bit," said Wells Corner Market owner Cedric Wells, 53.

## Minn. court declares Franken leading vote-getter

**ST. PAUL, Minn.** (AP)—A Minnesota court confirmed Monday that Democrat Al Franken won the most votes in his 2008 Senate race against Republican Norm Coleman, who immediately announced plans to appeal the decision.

Coleman has 10 days to appeal to the state Supreme Court. Once the petition is filed, it could further delay the seating of Minnesota's second senator for weeks.

"It's time that Minnesota like every other state have two" senators, a jovial Franken said outside his Minneapolis townhouse with his wife Franni at his side. "I would call on Senator Coleman to allow me to get to work for the people of Minnesota as soon as possible."

After a statewide recount and seven-

week trial, Franken stands 312 votes ahead. He gained more votes from the election challenge than Coleman, the candidate who brought the legal action.

The state law under which Coleman sued required three judges to determine who got the most votes and is therefore entitled to an election certificate, which is now on hold pending an appeal.

"The overwhelming weight of the evidence indicates that the November 4, 2008, election was conducted fairly, impartially and accurately," the judges wrote. "There is no evidence of a systematic problem of disenfranchisement in the state's election system, including in its absentee-ballot procedures."

In its order, the judicial panel dis-

missed two attempts by Coleman to subtract votes from Franken over allegations of mishandled ballots in Minneapolis.

The judges also rejected Coleman's argument that a state board improperly made up for a packet of ballots lost between the election and the recount. His lawyers contended that the ballots' disappearance rendered them invalid and that Coleman was entitled to review all ballots as part of the recount.

Coleman's lawyers claimed dozens of ballots were double-counted when their originals couldn't be fed into optical scanning machines on Election Day. They said it was possible that originals and duplicates were included in the recount.

### ACROSS THE NATION

#### Passenger lands plane in Fla. after pilot dies

**TAMPA, Fla.** (AP)—Doug White and his family had just enjoyed a smooth take-off and were ascending through the clouds when the pilot guiding their twin-engine plane tilted his head back and made a guttural sound. The retired jet pilot, Joe Cabuk, was unconscious. And though White had his pilot's license, he had never flown a plane as large as this. "I need help. I need a King Air pilot to talk to. We're in trouble," he radioed. Then he turned to his wife and two daughters: "You all start praying hard." Behind him, his wife trembled. Sixteen-year-old Bailey cried. Eighteen-year-old Maggie threw up. White, 56, landed the plane on his own about 30 minutes later, coaxed through the harrowing ordeal by air traffic controllers who described exactly how to bring the aircraft to safety. The pilot died, but White somehow managed. When a controller asked whether he was on autopilot, White replied: "I'm in the good Lord's hands flying this Niner Delta Whiskey," giving the code for the aircraft.

#### NTSB investigating fatal Fla. power boat wreck

**JACKSONVILLE, Fla.** (AP)—The National Transportation Safety Board has launched an investigation of the fatal power boat accident that killed five people and injured nine on Florida's east coast. "We are looking at the man, the machine and the environment," NTSB member Deborah A.P. Hersman said at a Monday afternoon briefing. Hersman revealed that there were 14 people in the 22-foot power boat that crashed into the rear of the tug at about 7 p.m. Sunday near Palm Valley in St. Johns County, about 25 miles southeast of Jacksonville. Investigators had earlier said 12 people were aboard the boat. The NTSB is working with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, the U.S. Coast Guard and the St. Johns County Sheriff's Office. NTSB investigators will look over evidence collected by local authorities and interview witnesses and crash survivors.

#### Korean War casualty from Ky. is finally buried

**LEXINGTON, Ky.** (AP)—A young soldier who went missing in action nearly 60 years ago in the Korean War has been laid to rest in his native Kentucky after the military identified his remains. Attended by relatives he never knew, Army Cpl. Lloyd Dale Stidham was buried Monday with military honors at Camp Nelson National Cemetery. His funeral service was held earlier that day in Lexington. A half brother, Donald Stidham, said the Army was able to confirm that Lloyd and the soldiers found with him were executed by Chinese troops after they had surrendered. "We've waited almost 60 years; it's been tough," said Ronnie Stidham, 61, of Georgetown, the second of Lloyd Stidham's half brothers. Donald Stidham says the missing soldier's father and stepmother died without learning what happened to their son, who was 18 when he vanished. They died in 1999, about one year before the remains that turned out to be Lloyd Stidham's were found in North Korea.

# Asia

## Thai protest leaders call halt after riots

**BANGKOK** (AP)—Leaders of demonstrations that plunged the Thai capital into chaos said Tuesday that they were calling off their protests after combat troops ringed their last stronghold.

About 2,000 die-hard protesters began to abandon their encampment around the seat of government following two days of rioting that left two dead and more than 120 injured in clashes between troops and demonstrators across Bangkok.

"We have decided to call off the rally today because many

brothers and sisters have been hurt and killed. We don't want everybody to suffer the same. And we will not allow more deaths," said key protest leader Jatuporn Phromphan.

He said the protesters, who are demanding the resignation of Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva, "can come back and fight again. Democracy will not end today."

Jatuporn said the leaders were ready to give themselves up to authorities, though there were no reports of arrest warrants is-

sued for them.

Earlier, army spokesman Col. Sansern Kaewkamnerd had said troops were ready to move against the protesters, who had been encamped around Government House since March 26, and Jatuporn had vowed that they would make their last stand there.

Sansern said that only 2,000 protesters remained around Government House—the demonstrations had swelled to 100,000 last week—but that troops still had to cordon off four potential flash points in the city.

**UN Security Council condemns NKorea launch**

**UNITED NATIONS** (AP)—Eight days after North Korea's rocket launch, the U.N. Security Council on Monday unanimously condemned the action, demanded an end to missile tests and said it will expand sanctions against the reclusive communist nation.

The council's statement, agreed on by all 15 members and read at a formal meeting of the United Nations' most powerful body, said the launch violated a council resolution adopted after the North conducted a nuclear test explosion in 2006 that banned any missile tests by the country.

The statement was a weaker response than a U.N. resolution, which was sought by Japan and the United States but was opposed by China and Russia. U.S. Ambassador Susan Rice insisted the statement is legally binding, just like a resolution—a view backed by Russia—but other diplomats and officials disagreed.

Japanese Ambassador Yukio Takasu, calling his country the most threatened by the rocket launch, said his government

was "very pleased" by the unanimous message to North Korea that it conducted a "very provocative act" and violated the 2006 resolution.

North Korea warned earlier that any move to censure it at the U.N. could prompt its withdrawal from negotiations on dismantling the communist regime's nuclear weapons program. The North's talks with the U.S., China, Japan, South Korea and Russia are currently stalled.

In the statement, the Security Council expresses support for those talks and "calls for their early resumption." It also expresses the council's desire "for a peaceful and diplomatic solution to the situation" and for efforts to achieve "the verifiable denuclearization of the Korean peninsula."

President Barack Obama called the statement a "clear and united message" that North Korea's action was unlawful and would result in real consequences, White House spokesman Robert Gibbs said in a release.

Gibbs said the international

community is united in demanding that North Korea abandon its pursuit of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery, and that it refrain from further provocations.

U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and many council members also stressed the importance of sending a united message.

Ban, a former South Korean foreign minister, hopes the council's "unified response will pave the way for renewed efforts towards the peaceful resolution of all outstanding issues in the region, including through the early resumption of the six-party talks and the inter-Korean dialogue," U.N. spokeswoman Michele Montas said.

North Korea carried out the rocket launch in face of intense international pressure, saying it put a satellite in orbit as allowed under a U.N. space treaty. The U.S., Japan and South Korea claimed North Korea was really testing long-range missile technology, in violation of the 2006 resolution.

## Pakistan president signs off on Islamic law deal

**ISLAMABAD** (AP)—Pakistan's pro-U.S. president signed a regulation late Monday to put a northwestern district under Islamic law as part of a peace deal with the Taliban, going along after coming under intense pressure from members of his own party and other lawmakers.

Asif Ali Zardari's signature was a boon for Islamic militants who have brutalized the Swat Valley for nearly two years in demanding a new justice system. It was sure to further anger human rights activists and feed fears among the U.S. and other Western allies that the valley will turn into a sanctuary for militants close to Afghanistan. Whatever criticism may come, Zardari can claim some political cover—the National Assembly voted unanimously Monday to adopt a resolution urging his signature, although at least one party boycotted. Earlier, a Taliban spokesman had warned lawmakers against opposing the deal.

Zardari's spokeswoman, Farahnaz Ispahani, confirmed the president signed the regula-

tion Monday night.

His signing implemented a deal agreed to in February by provincial officials to impose Islamic law in the Swat Valley and surrounding areas in exchange for a cease-fire between security forces and the local Taliban.

Zardari had put off signing the agreement, saying he wouldn't until peace was restored in Swat but never defining what that meant. The delay led a hard-line Muslim cleric mediating the agreement to leave Swat in anger last week and upset lawmakers from the region.

As pressure mounted, the federal government said over the weekend that Zardari wanted parliament first to debate the accord to implement an Islamic legal system, as long demanded by some residents disenchanted with inefficient regular courts.

Lawmakers made clear they believed the deal should go ahead, saying it would bring calm to the area after months of bloodshed that killed hundreds of people and displaced up to one-third of the

valley's 1.5 million residents.

"The whole nation is united in its support of the Swat regulation and wants the president to approve it," Prime Minister Yousaf Raza Gilani said at the start of parliamentary debate Monday.

Even without the president's approval, judges trained in Islamic law had begun hearing cases in Swat, and witnesses say Taliban fighters are in effective control of much of the region. The provincial government also agreed to other measures under the peace deal, such as cracking down on prostitution and sales of movies deemed "obscene."

Supporters say the changes in the legal system will speed up justice, not lead to harsh punishments or restrict the rights of women. Critics say the agreement is a surrender to extremists whose tactics include beheading opponents and burning girls' schools.

The events Monday "strengthened the militants," said Mahmood Shah, an analyst and former top security official in northwest Pakistan.

# World

## Pirates seen as not interested in raising violence



AP An unidentified crew member of the Maersk Alabama speaks with journalists, not seen, at the port of Mombasa, Kenya, Monday, April 13, 2009.

**NAIROBI, Kenya** (AP)—U.S. and French naval attacks on Somali pirates raised fears Monday for the safety of scores of foreign sailors still held hostage and sparked a debate on safeguarding shipping. The most likely outcome, though, is business as usual for the bandits.

Pirate leaders in Somalia have vowed to retaliate for the killing of three pirates by U.S. Navy SEAL sharpshooters in the daring rescue of American captain Richard Phillips on Sunday. Two days earlier,

**21 people killed in Poland homeless shelter blaze**

**KAMIEN POMORSKI, Poland** (AP)—Survivors of a fire that killed 21 people at a three-story shelter for homeless families in Poland on Monday described a fast-moving inferno that forced some to jump from windows into trees.

Six of the victims were children and another 20 people were injured, most

French naval attack freed four hostages but killed one Frenchman and four pirates.

The International Maritime Bureau said it supported the U.S. and French action, but also cautioned it may spark retaliation by pirates—a fear shared by many of the families of the 228 foreign nationals aboard 13 ships still held hostage.

"Those released are lucky, but what about those who remain captive?" said Vilma de Guzman, the wife of Filipino seafarer Ruel de Guzman, held

since Nov. 10 with 22 other Filipinos on the chemical tanker MT Stolt Strength.

The pirates' primary concerns, however, are economic, and they have no interest in escalating violence.

Pirates armed with assault rifles and rocket-propelled grenades typically speed toward a ship in skiffs and use ropes and hooks to get aboard without shooting. Within days, a ransom of \$1 million to \$2 million is delivered, by sea or air, and the ship and crew are released.

**of whom sustained broken bones after leaping from the building to escape the blaze in the northwestern city of Kamien Pomorski.**

Poland's president, meanwhile, raised questions about whether the building met fire regulations. He suggested flammable construction material may have contributed to

*Obama vows to fight piracy after captain's rescue*

**MOMBASA, Kenya** (AP)—President Barack Obama vowed Monday "to halt the rise of piracy," while shipmates of the rescued American freighter captain called for tough action against Somali bandits who are preying on one of the world's busiest sea routes.

Obama appeared to move up the piracy issue on his agenda, saying the United States would work with nations elsewhere in the world.

"I want to be very clear that we are resolved to halt the rise of piracy in that region and to achieve that goal, we're going to have to continue to work with our partners to prevent future attacks," Obama said at a Washington news conference.

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**21 people killed in Poland homeless shelter blaze**

the fire's speed and intensity.

Survivor accounts appeared to support that.

"I couldn't breathe, so I opened the window and looked out, and the door was on fire because it was essentially made of paper," a survivor told reporters at the scene in footage shown on TVN24 television.

### WORLD BRIEFS

#### Italian Jews aid World War II saviors hit by quake

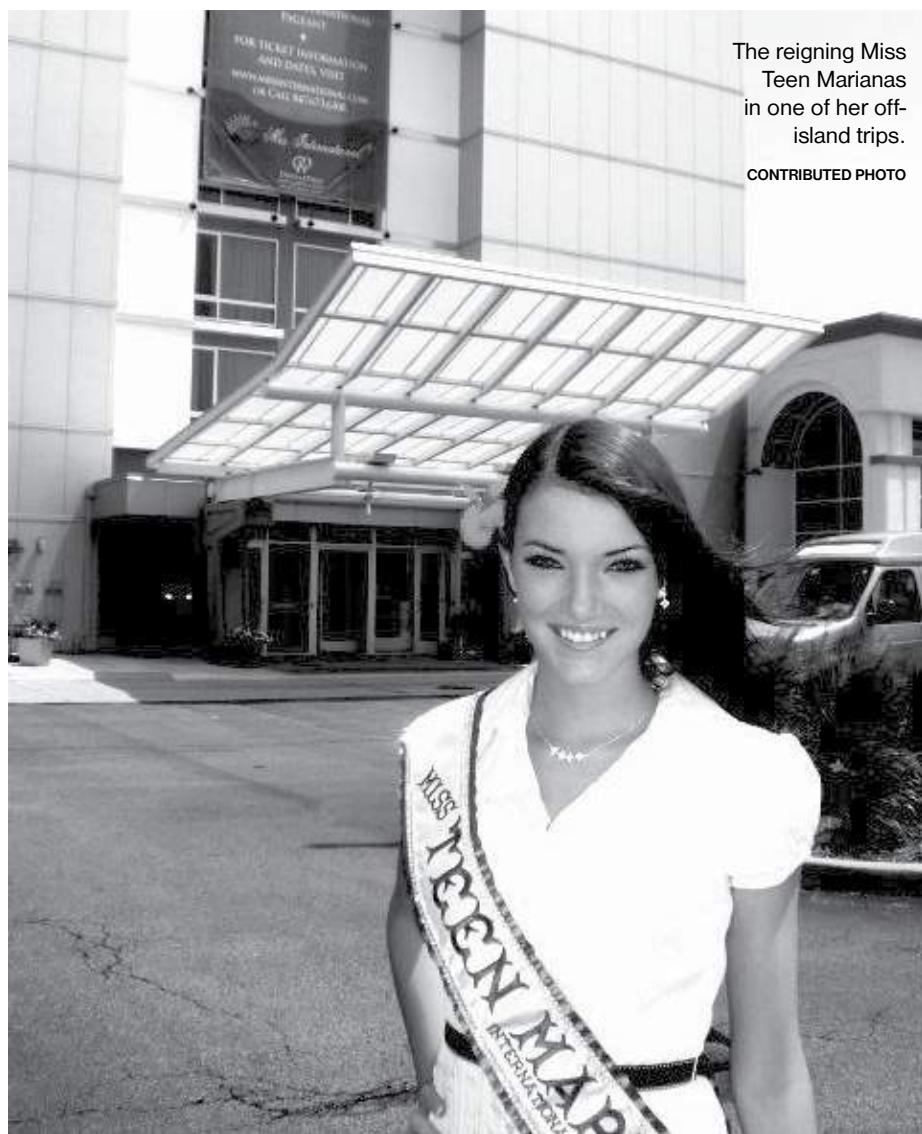
**FOSSA, Italy** (AP)—More than 65 years after villagers provided shelter to Italian Jews fleeing from the Nazis, a group of those who evaded capture rushed to repay that sacrifice in rural communities hard-hit by an earthquake. A delegation of around 20 elderly Jews and their descendants—as well as community leaders—made their way to makeshift camps in the area around the mountain city of L'Aquila on Monday, peering into tents in a bid to find their saviors. They offered everything from gym shoes to summer camps for children. "I wouldn't be here if it weren't for these people," said Alberto Di Consiglio, whose parents were sheltered in the small hamlets of Fossa and Castellino during the war. "We have to help them." More than 100 tent cities have been built around L'Aquila and the 26 towns and villages affected by the 6.3-magnitude quake, which struck central Italy on April 6.

#### Congressman escapes injury in Somali mortar attack

**MOGADISHU, Somalia** (AP)—Assailants fired mortar shells at the Mogadishu airport as a plane carrying an American congressman took off, a police officer said Monday. The plane departed safely, but 19 Somalis were reported wounded in surrounding residential areas. U.S. Rep. Don Payne, who met with Somalia's top leaders during his one-day visit, said that he had no idea of the violence until reaching Kenya after the flight from Mogadishu, one of the most dangerous cities in the world and rarely visited by foreign travelers. "We found out when we arrived in Nairobi," the chairman of the House subcommittee on Africa told The Associated Press. He said that the aircraft noise probably drowned out the sound of the mortars. The Islamic extremist group al-Shabab later claimed responsibility for the mortar barrage in a statement posted on a militant Web site, according to the terrorism monitoring group SITE.

# Campus Life

## Ariel St. Clair on youth issues, respect, and painting



The reigning Miss Teen Marianas in one of her off-island trips.  
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

BY MONETH G. DEPOSA  
moneth\_deposa@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The reigning Miss Marianas Teen, Ariel St. Clair, shared with *Saipan Tribune* the important role she plays as a youth ambassador of goodwill. A junior student at Ladera International School of Saipan, 16-year-old St. Clair wishes to fulfill her dreams of becoming a counselor and an active service member of the U.S. Air Force.

This summer, the young beauty titlist will officially represent the CNMI in the prestigious Miss Teen International Pageant where she vows to give all her best.

**Saipan Tribune:** What are your major accomplishments as a role model for CNMI teens?

**Answer:** I think one of the major accomplishments that I consider would have to be painting the mural for DYS. It was a really amazing thing because I had never done a mural before, and it came out better than I had imagined. After I finished, the staff members and the children told me that it really helped with the environment of the shelter and that made me feel like I had accomplished something, not only for myself, but for others as well.

**ST:** In representing the islands' youths and teenagers, what barriers or challenges have you encountered here and off-island?

**A:** A definite challenge would have to be facing cultural diversity on island. You know, there are some people who look at you differently because you're from somewhere else and you have a different skin color. And then there is about the same amount of people who consider you an equal. I call the CNMI my home, but then there are people who think that I am unfit to represent the island because I am light complected. That is a challenge, but nothing is a barrier for me. I can overcome anything with

God by my side.

**ST:** What are some of the greatest lessons, experiences, and moments have you learned from being Miss Teen Marianas 2008?

**A:** One of the greatest experiences that I have gained from being Miss Marianas Teen 2008 would have to be spending time with the children at the shelter and painting the mural for DYS. I had never painted a mural before and was pretty nervous but it came out great! Plus, I got some the kids to help me paint the hearts on the tree, and I think that made it all the better. Another thing would be having the opportunity to go to the states this summer and compete in the Miss Teen International pageant. That really opened me up to the pageant world, and I got to meet some really amazing people.

**ST:** What legacy would you want to



Ariel St. Clair poses with fellow beauty titlists Little Miss Marianas Kayla Borja and princess Kassandra Royal.

build and leave for the CNMI youths?

**A:** To instill hope that there is always an opportunity out there to become what you want as long as you try hard and stay focused. You can do anything; nothing is impossible.

**ST:** What do you think are the youth problems that need the most immediate attention and resolution? And how can you help address them?

**A:** Well, my platform as Miss Marianas 2008 is to advocate and educate people on domestic violence, especially dealing with youth. I have been working with youths at daycare centers, giving them basic education on what child abuse is, and how to prevent it. It's a fact that child abuse, whether physical, verbal, or sexual, is the main cause for erratic behaviors in teen life such as teen pregnancy, drug abuse and alcohol abuse. I think that by educating the youth about child abuse now will help prevent other problems when they are older.

**ST:** What are the values you think are missing in our youths today? What are your recommendations to revive them?

**A:** A value that I believe the youths lack today would have to be respect. Not only respect for elders such as their parents, and teachers, but also respect for themselves. It has become such a common thing to not respect people, that parents have stopped teaching their children about respect. My recommendation to revive this is to start teaching youth to respect when they are younger, and to value themselves.

**ST:** What youth programs would you like to see implemented?

**A:** Well, I think it would be great if we could have a program or organization that helps troubled youth, like a YMCA, where they could come and hang out when they have nowhere else to go.

**ST:** Can you share one specific moment during your reign as Miss Teen that truly touched and affected you as a person?

**A:** Well, every time I go to the daycare, it is an amazing experience. The kids run to me and hug me and even hold on to my leg. It is an honor to be a part of their life as a positive influence.

**ST:** A final message to the islands' modern youths?

**A:** Stand for something, or you will fall for anything. Strive for the best, and nothing less. Good results come from hard work and dedication. The only thing that limits you is yourself.

### YOUTH ISSUES IN PICTURES

The American Literature and English classes of Kathryn Tuten-Puckett at the Saipan International School were recently given an assignment to take pictures of things and issues that concern them. The students were also asked to write captions for their pictures. The *Saipan Tribune* has agreed to feature some of those pictures, so that our readers will know that the islands' youth are just as anxious as the rest of us about what is happening to the Commonwealth.



**READY, SET, DON'T STOP**

EMMA MCCULLOUGH-STEARN

This faded stop sign marks an intersection near Sister Remedios School in Chalan Kanoa. Lack of proper maintenance is a hazard for the students of the school and the neighborhood community.



**FACTORY CLOSURES**

SAMSON HSIEH

Things don't look too bright for Saipan's economy. Its garment factories have closed down, leading to a great economic disaster. Without these factories Saipan's government is losing incredible amounts of money from taxes that these factories give every year, leading to people losing their jobs in the government.

### STRAY ANIMALS

This is a picture of a stray dog on Saipan. Stray dogs are a very big problem on Saipan and they usually lead to more problems. The reason stray animals are a big problem on Saipan is because they are usually not neutered and they just keep breeding and breeding.



EVERT VAN DER MAAS



**GRAFFITI ALL OVER**

HARRISON SMITH

Many unoccupied buildings and houses won't sell because graffiti covers the walls. This makes the buildings look bad, disgusts potential buyers, and hurts the economy.

# Life & Style

## Joe Frazier has spotlight in HBO's 'Thrilla'

By REED JOHNSON  
(C) 2009, LOS ANGELES TIMES

Smokin' Joe is on the phone and upside my head, joking, singing and jawing once again about the fight of the decade, of the century, some would say of all-time: the so-called "Thrilla in Manila."

Justifiable or not, hyperbole was the order of the day on Oct. 1, 1975, when Joe Frazier climbed into the ring with Muhammad Ali for the third and final of their legendary bouts, in Araneta Coliseum in the sultry Philippines capital (the fight took place in the morning to accommodate live TV-feeds for overseas audiences). Their epic confrontation is the subject of "Thrilla in Manila," an HBO documentary that will debut Saturday night and be reshowed on several subsequent dates.

"I really didn't watch the fight because I didn't like the way it finished," Frazier replies when asked why he'd never watched the bout before HBO's crew asked him to, so that they could film his three-decade delayed reaction.

Frazier wasn't alone in that sentiment.

The furiously contested slugfest between Ali, the kinetic boxer, and Frazier, the dogged slugger with the withering left hook, ended with both men brutally battered. Frazier never forgave his trainer and cornerman, Eddie Futch, for stopping the fight before the 15th round, while Frazier fumed on his stool, one of his eyes swollen shut. Ali, meanwhile, nearly had his hips lock up from the punishment that Frazier was inflicting with body blows.

Their rivalry was fueled by Frazier's feeling that Ali had

what M-E-N is all about. I'm trying to help the guy. He was down on his back. ... I'm not like those new fighters where the man is down, you kick him around."

Were he and Ali each other's best opponents, Frazier is asked. "I would say yes," comes the gravelly baritone in response. "We were the kind of guys that brought out the best in all the fights."

Directed by John Dower and narrated by Liev Schreiber, "Thrilla in Manila" reconstructs events largely through Frazier's eyes. "We felt that Joe's story had not really properly been told," Dower says.

The reason, Dower believes, is that the charismatic Ali's made-for-television personality has dominated the historical record of his blood feud with Frazier, even though Ali memorably lost the first and most significant of their three showdowns, in Madison Square Garden on March 8, 1971, when both still were undefeated.

"When we set out to make this film we didn't say, 'Hey, let's make a movie to trash Muhammad Ali,'" Dower says. Yet Dower felt that the Ali myth was so strong it had glossed over the darker aspects of Ali's character and overshadowed Frazier's achievements.

"Thrilla in Manila" documents the back story leading up to the bout: the polarizing nature of the 1971 fight, which split many Americans along racial lines, with blacks sup-



Muhammad Ali gives a triumphant roar after felling Joe Frazier.

the Nation of Islam's doctrines coincided).

That context sets up the movie's suspenseful final section showing the match through archival footage. The intensity of the fighters and their ability to absorb body blows and still keep coming supplies all the drama that "Thrilla in Manila" needs.

"Both these guys are Ahab," comments Jerry Izenberg of the Star-Ledger of Newark, N.J., one of several sports journalists who appear in the movie. The cast of characters also includes Imelda Marcos, the shopaholic widow of former Philippine strongman Ferdinand Marcos, who confesses on camera that she couldn't bear to watch all of the gory encounter.

"Thrilla in Manila" depicts the very different circumstances of the two ex-champs today. Ali, suffering from advanced Parkinson's disease, remains an internationally beloved figure, while Frazier lives modestly but, by all evidence, happily in Philadelphia, in a backroom of the building where he has owned a gym and trained young fighters for years.

"I don't want to give you the impression that Joe is going around raving about Muhammad Ali every day," Dower says. "He's a very happy-go-lucky guy. He's still out driving his cars incredibly fast, scary fast. He's still chasing women."

Indeed, Frazier says, he feels "like I'm 23 years old," and he wants to have a little chat with

## 'Thrilla in Manila' covers the back story and the brutality

By ROBERT LLOYD  
(C) 2009, LOS ANGELES TIMES



Sal Marchiano is shown interviewing Joe Frazier.

insulted and mocked him, even after Frazier had come to Ali's defense when Ali was forced to surrender his championship belt after refusing to fight in the Vietnam War. At one point, Frazier even lent money to the down-and-out ex-champ.

Why did Frazier extend a hand to the man who later would ridicule him as an Uncle Tom and a "gorilla"?

"That's what men is all about," Frazier says. "That's

If you are not a boxing fan (I am not a boxing fan), the HBO documentary "Thrilla in Manila"—the story of the Joe Frazier-Muhammad Ali rivalry, as it played across three fights from 1971 to 1975—is not the film to make you one. And if you are a boxing fan, well, even those here seem

porting the more avowedly anti-establishment Ali; the irony that Frazier had a greater claim than Ali to blue-collar authenticity (Frazier was born in rural South Carolina, the son of a sharecroper

appalled at the brutality of the famous final bout, called one of the greatest fights in history, even as they celebrate the participants' gladiatorial resolve. But either way, the movie premiering Saturday works.

History is written not only by but for the winners, and what Ali has not celebrated about himself the world has celebrated for him; he's as famous as anyone has ever been, and as beloved. Frazier, 63 at the time of filming, was living in a room at his Philadelphia gym.

But Ali doesn't come off all that well here. Part of it is context—directed by John Dower, "Thrilla" is really a film about Frazier—and part is just focus: Ali did behave badly toward Frazier, his customary brashness escalating to a calculated nastiness, and although he apologized publicly in later years, he never apologized directly to Frazier.

per who kept a moonshine still); and Ali's attempt to whip up media attention over the Manila showdown by incessantly trash-talking Frazier.

"Thrilla in Manila" pum-

Ali not only called Frazier stupid and ugly, but, more provocatively, an Uncle Tom. "He's the other type Negro," said Ali. "He's not like me." Frazier worked, Ali said, "for the enemy"—he was backed by a consortium of white Philadelphia businessmen, while Ali was supported by the Nation of Islam. That Frazier had supported Ali—financially, vocally, morally—when Ali's refusal to serve in the U.S. Army lost him his title and boxing license in 1967 (a Supreme Court ruling restored it in 1970), made these attacks all the more galling.

Their first meeting, in Madison Square Garden, was dubbed "The Fight of the Century"—it was the first fight between two unbeaten champions—and was a celebrity-studded affair in which Frank Sinatra shot photos for Life and Burt Lancaster did

mels away at the contradictions in Ali's oversize personality. Although he converted to the Nation of Islam and presented himself as a scourge of white racism and hypocrisy, "Thrilla

in Manilla" includes interview footage of Ali joking about his appearance at a Ku Klux Klan rally, where he spoke against black-white intermarriage (a point on which the Klan's and

the punches coming. Both fighters, says Ali's former doctor Ferdie Pacheco, had reached the point "when the fight becomes more important than life and death, and that's why people die in boxing."

"Thrilla in Manila" is a compelling, often disturbing story about former friends locked in permanent clinch in which the greatness of each is reckoned by the greatness of the other and by the mutual damage they've done. The camera watches Frazier watching footage of Manila for the first time, and he does not look like a man looking at himself lose.

"God marks it down," says Frazier of Ali's behavior to him; he is willing to see Ali's Parkinson's as divine retribution and likes to think of himself as its earthly instrument: "I'm the guy who closed down the butterfly lips."

President Barack Obama about how to restore boxing to the prestige it enjoyed back in the day.

Oh, and one other thing. "I got the gym up for sale, man. Wanna buy it?"

# Phil Spector found guilty of 2nd-degree murder

**LOS ANGELES** (AP)—Rock music producer Phil Spector was convicted Monday of second-degree murder in the shooting death of a film actress at his mansion six years ago, a verdict that will send him to prison for at least 18 years barring a successful appeal.

A Superior Court jury returned the verdict after about 30 hours of deliberations. The jury had the option of choosing involuntary manslaughter, but did not do so.

The panel also found Spector guilty of using a firearm in committing a crime.

Spector exhibited no reaction to the verdict. His attorney argued that he should remain free on bail pending the May 29 sentencing, but Judge Larry Paul Fidler remanded him to jail immediately.

Second-degree murder carries a penalty of 15 years to life in prison. The use-of-a-gun enhancement adds three, four or 10 years in prison, according to the district attorney's office.

Defense attorney Doron Weinberg said he believed the case was swayed by the judge's erroneous rulings, particularly one that allowed five women from Spector's past to testify. He said it would be the basis for appeal and a request for a new trial.

Spector's young wife, Rachelle, sobbed as the decision was announced. It was Spector's second trial. The first jury deadlocked 10-2, favoring conviction in 2007.

The 40-year-old Lana Clarkson, star of the 1985 cult film "Barbarian Queen," died of a gunshot fired in her mouth as she sat in the foyer of Spector's mansion in 2003. She met Spector



Phil Spector, center, stands with his attorney Doron Weinberg, left, as the verdict is read in Los Angeles on Monday, April 13, 2009.

only hours earlier at her job as a night-club hostess.

Prosecutors argued Spector had a history of threatening women with guns when they tried to leave his presence. The defense claimed she killed herself.

The murder case was a flash from Hollywood's distant past, a reminder of the 1960s when Spector reigned as the hit maker supreme with such songs as the Righteous Brothers' "You've Lost That Lovin' Feelin'" and the Ronettes' classic, "Be My Baby."

Spector, 69, who had long lived in seclusion at his suburban Alhambra

"castle," was out on the town in Hollywood when he met Clarkson on Feb. 3, 2003, at the House of Blues. The tall, blond actress, recently turned 40 and unable to find acting work, had taken a job as a hostess. When the club closed in the wee hours, she accepted a chauffeured ride to Spector's home for a drink. Three hours later, she was dead. Spector's chauffeur, the key witness, said he heard a gunshot, then saw Spector emerge holding a gun and heard him say: "I think I killed somebody."

During the trial, Weinberg disputed whether the chauffeur remembered

the words accurately. In closing arguments, he listed 14 points of forensic evidence including blood spatter, gunshot residue and DNA, which he said were proof of a self-inflicted wound.

"It's very difficult to put a gun in somebody's mouth," he said.

"Every single fact says this is a self-inflicted gunshot wound," Weinberg argued. "How do you ignore it? How do you say this could have been a homicide?"

But prosecutors portrayed Spector as a dangerous man who became a "demonic maniac" when he drank and

had a history of threatening women with guns. They also contended blood spatter evidence proved that Clarkson could not have shot herself.

As in the first trial, they presented testimony from five women who told of being threatened by a drunken Spector, even held hostage in his home, with a gun pointed at them and threats of death if they tried to leave. The parallels with the night Clarkson died were chilling even if the stories were very old—31 years in one instance.

Prosecutors, haunted by the acquittals of stars such as O.J. Simpson, Robert Blake and Michael Jackson, at first seemed invested in making Spector the first star to be convicted in a major criminal case. But after the first trial ended in a deadlock, public interest faded. The second six-month trial was played out in a sparsely populated courtroom with few members of the media present.

Deputy District Attorney Alan Jackson said Monday that "justice ... was unserved up until today. Today is when the Clarkson family gets their justice."

The jury forewoman, who refused to be identified, cried as she described how the panel made its choice.

"It just is a painful decision," she said.

During jury selection, only a few panelists remembered Spector's heyday as the inventor of the "Wall of Sound" recording technique and producer of teen anthems including, "To Know Him is to Love Him," The Crystals' "Da Doo Ron Ron" and "He's a Rebel" and Ike and Tina Turner's "River Deep-Mountain High." He also worked on a Beatles album with John Lennon.

## Who moved my rank? Sales rank purged from Amazon

**NEW YORK** (AP)—Amazon.com apologized Monday for an "embarrassing and ham-fisted cataloging error" that led to the sales ranking being removed from tens of thousands of books.

The online retailer initially said Sunday that a "glitch" had caused the problem and promised that the numbers would be restored. But Monday afternoon, sales numbers were still gone for such recent works as Chelsea Handler's "My Horizontal Life" and from such classics as Gore Vidal's "The City and the Pillar" and James Baldwin's "Giovanni's Room."

"What kind of a childish game is this?" Vidal said Monday. "Why don't they just burn the books? They'd be better off and it's very visual on television."

On Monday, Amazon spokesman Andrew Herdener called the deletions an "embarrassing and ham-fisted cataloging error for a company that prides itself on offering complete selection." He said that 57,310 books in categories ranging from gay and lesbian literature to health and erotica had been affected.

"This problem impacted books not just in the United States but globally. It affected not just sales rank but also had the effect of removing the books from Amazon's main product search," Herdener said. "Many books have now been fixed and we're in the process of fixing the remainder as quickly as possible, and we intend to implement new measures to make this kind of accident less likely to occur in the future."

Authors strongly questioned Amazon's explanation, with some posting e-mails they had received from the on-

line seller that said their books had been placed in an unranked "adult" category, excluded from some searches and best-seller lists. And the glitch dates back to at least February, when Craig Seymour



In this Jan. 26, 2006 file photo, writer Annie Proulx speaks at a news conference in Madrid.

noticed that the ranking for his memoir "All I Could Bare" had been deleted. (It came back, he said, a few weeks later.)

Affected books include the scholarly (Michel Foucault's "The History of Sexuality, Volume 1"), the obscure (V.K. Powell's "Suspect Passions") and the famous. The sales rank has been missing for E. Annie Proulx's "Brokeback Mountain," the basis for the acclaimed movie which starred Heath Ledger, and for Paul Monette's

"Becoming a Man," winner of a National Book Award in 1992.

The "glitch" has even turned on former Amazon favorites, among them M.J. Rose's "Lip Service," promoted back in 1999 as a self-published novel which found an audience on Amazon. "Through Amazon.com Advantage ... Rose was able to market and distribute her book directly to Amazon.com customers so successfully that the Doubleday Book Club selected it as a featured alternate," Amazon announced in August 1999. "After enrolling in the Advantage program, 'Lip Service' generated such a buzz from the large volume of positive reader reviews that the publishing industry was forced to take notice."

Still ranked were such bloody novels as Chuck Palahniuk's "Fight Club" and Bret Easton Ellis' "American Psycho." Also intact were two novels banned for decades because of their language and erotic content: D.H. Lawrence's "Lady Chatterley's Lover" and Henry Miller's "Tropic of Cancer."

News of the glitch emerged around the same time that the American Library Association announced the death of Judith Krug,

the head of the ALA's Office for Intellectual Freedom and founder of Banned Books Week, which features an annual list of the books most often criticized or removed.

"It isn't fair to say that Amazon is actually censoring books, but you can't help draw the parallels, simply because the same kinds of books are involved," said Deborah Caldwell-Stone, deputy director of the library association's intellectual freedom office.

## Mel Gibson's wife files for divorce in LA

**LOS ANGELES** (AP)—Mel Gibson's wife of 28 years filed for divorce Monday, citing irreconcilable differences.

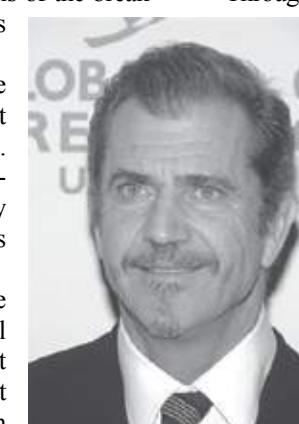
Robyn Gibson filed the petition, which offers no details of the breakup, in Los Angeles Superior Court.

The couple have seven children, but only one under 18. Robyn Gibson has requested joint custody of their son who turns 10 on Tuesday.

Details of how the couple's assets will be divided were not spelled out in the court filings. Robyn Gibson is seeking jewelry and earnings and assets she accrued after the couple separated, and a share of the money and assets Gibson, 53, has earned during his nearly three decades as a Hollywood hitmaker.

She wants the actor-director to pay spousal support and her attorney's fees.

Mel Gibson filed a response to the divorce within four hours of his wife's filing, stating that the couple separated in late August 2006. He does not want to pay Robyn Gibson spousal support and is seeking that attorneys' fees be paid out of the couple's joint property, the documents show. His divorce was first reported by celebrity gossip site TMZ, which made a splash for its



In this Dec. 10, 2008 file photo, actor Mel Gibson attends the 9th Annual Global Green Design Awards in New York.

"Throughout our marriage and separation we have always strived to maintain the privacy and integrity of our family and will continue to do so," the statement read.

The Gibsons released a joint statement Monday, seeking privacy.

"Mad Max" in 1979 brought Gibson his first international attention, closely followed by the critically acclaimed "Gallipoli" and the Mad Max sequel "The Road Warrior."

Gibson has since gone on to make a mix of crowd-pleasing

shoot-'em-ups such as the "Lethal Weapon" franchise, and has established himself as a director. 1995's "Braveheart" earned Gibson two Oscars for best picture and best director. He also produced and directed the blockbuster "The Passion of the Christ." Gibson pleaded no contest to the July 2006 drunken driving charge later that year and was given three years' probation.

Since then, he has hosted Britney Spears at his home in Costa Rica, and continued his acting career. He stars in "Edge of Darkness," scheduled for release later this year.

# X-rated star Marilyn Chambers dies at 56

**LOS ANGELES** (AP)—Marilyn Chambers, the pretty Ivory Snow girl who helped bring hard-core adult films into the mainstream consciousness when she starred in the explicit 1972 movie “Behind the Green Door,” has died at 56.

The cause of death was not immediately known. A family friend, Peggy McGinn, said Chambers’ 17-year-old daughter found the actress’ body Sunday night at her home in the Los Angeles suburb of Canyon Country. Chambers was pronounced dead at the scene, the county coroner’s office said Monday.

Chambers and fellow actresses Linda Lovelace and Georgina Spelvin shot to fame at a time in the early 1970s when both American social mores and the quality of hard-core sex films were changing.

For the first time, films like “Behind the Green Door” and “Deep Throat” (also released in 1972 and starring Lovelace) had decent acting and legitimate if fairly thin plots. As the audiences for them grew to include couples, they also began to take on higher production values and to be seen in places other than sleazy theaters.

But “Behind the Green Door” brought something

more in Chambers, an attractive young woman who had begun her career as a legitimate actress and model.

While the film was still in theaters, the public learned that its star was the same young blonde smiling and holding a freshly diapered baby on boxes of Ivory Snow laundry soap (which the company touted as “99 and 44/100 percent pure”). The manufacturer quickly replaced her, but it was later discovered that she also had a small role in the 1970 Barbra Streisand film “The Owl and the Pussycat.”

“She was the first crossover adult star. She was the Ivory Snow girl and when she decided to make an adult movie that was big news,” Steven Hirsch, co-CEO of adult filmmaker Vivid Entertainment Group, told The Associated Press on Monday.

“It was the first adult movie that was more than just a bunch of sex scenes,” Hirsch said of her breakthrough film. “She was an actress and she brought that ability to the set of ‘Behind the Green Door.’ That’s part of what made that movie so successful.”

In an online chat with Adult-DVDtalk.com in 2000, Chambers attempted to explain what caused her to take such a radi-

cally different career path after “The Owl and the Pussycat” and her modeling work.

“Back then in my naive brain I was thinking that something like ‘Behind the Green Door’ had never been done before and the way our sexual revolution was traveling I really thought it was going to be a stepping stone which would further my acting career,” she said.

She learned afterward, she said, that wasn’t the case.

“There will always be a stigma on people who do adult films,” she said. “It’s unfortunate that that’s the way society has made it.”

She followed “Green Door” with the hard-core films “Resurrection of Eve,” in 1973 and “Inside Marilyn Chambers” in 1975. Then she announced in 1976 that she was giving up adult films to pursue other interests. She starred in the 1977 horror movie “Rabid” and put together a song-and-dance show that played Las Vegas and elsewhere.

She returned to adult films in 1980 in “Insatiable” and through the rest of her career went back and forth between explicit movies and R-rated ones.

“She was a pioneer, and an amazingly secure woman. I ad-



the industry’s biggest stars.

Hirsch noted that one of the most striking things about Chambers’ career was its longevity in a business where stars quickly fade. She still has a photo gallery on the Web site Adult Video News and the Internet Movie Database credits her as recently completing a film called, “Porndogs: The Adventures of Sadie” with Ron Jeremy.

Although Chambers was quick to point out in 2000 that she had done more R-rated films than X-rated ones, she made no apologies for the latter.

“I have to say that the adult films have been a total pleasure,” she said. “They were like getting paid to live out my greatest fantasies. The rest of the stuff ... sometimes got to be a real grind.”

Chambers, born Marilyn Ann Briggs, on April 22, 1952, grew up in Westport, Conn. She got her start in adult films after answering an ad placed in a San Francisco newspaper by pioneering adult filmmakers Jim and Artie Mitchell.

Married and divorced three times, she is survived by her daughter, McKenna Marie Taylor; her brother, Bill Briggs; and her sister, Jann Smith.

## Madonna still hopes to adopt Malawian child

**BLANTYRE, Malawi** (AP)—Madonna has told a newspaper in Malawi that she still wants to adopt a girl from the poor African nation despite legal obstacles, to educate her and empower her to help people in her country.

The pop star told The Nation that she would appeal against a court ruling that she wasn’t eligible to adopt a 3-year-old orphan, Chifundo “Mercy” James, because she hasn’t lived in Malawi.

“I want to provide Mercy with a home, a loving family environment and the best education and health care possible,” she said in an e-mailed response to questions from the newspaper.

“And it’s my hope that she, like David, will one day return to Malawi and help the people of their country,” Madonna told the Nation on Sunday.

On Monday, Madonna’s office confirmed the interview and the quotes.

Madonna spotted both David and Mercy in an orphanage in 2006. She was able to leave the country immediately with David and the adoption is now final.

But her plans to take Mercy with her last month foundered when Judge Esme Chombo said Madonna did not meet Malawi’s strict definition of “resident.” Noting that Madonna had last visited Malawi in 2008, the judge said the pop star “jetted into the country during the weekend just days prior to the hearing of this application.”

Malawi requires prospective



In this April 3, 2009 file photo, U.S. singer Madonna visits a development project in Gumulira, Malawi.

parents to live in the country for 18 to 24 months while child welfare authorities assess their suitability—a rule that was bent when Madonna was allowed to take David to London in 2006. Madonna has two other children, Lourdes, 12, and Rocco, 8.

No date has been set for a court hearing to appeal the judge’s ruling.

Madonna said she could not say anything else before the ruling, but thanked her friends in Malawi and around the world for their support.

Madonna runs a charity, Raising Malawi, to help feed, educate and provide medical care for some of the country’s more than 1 million orphans, half of whom have lost parents to AIDS.

## Spike seals deal for show on Navy pirate hunters

**NEW YORK** (AP)—Barely a day after the daring rescue of an American sea captain, cable TV’s Spike announced a deal Monday to produce a show about U.S. Navy pirate hunters.

Two crews for 44 Blue Productions hope to be on board Navy vessels patrolling in the pirate-infested waters off the coast of Africa within two weeks. The company is aiming to have a series ready to put on the air by September, said Rasha Drachkovitch, 44 Blue’s president and founder.

He’d been talking to the Navy about the idea for three months, but it was finished late last week while the standoff with pirates who had taken Capt. Richard Phillips hostage was going on.

“We had no idea if last week’s events would actually kill the deal or seal the deal,” said Sharon Levy, Spike’s senior vice president for original series.

Drachkovitch said he thought the Navy would put the project on hold, yet instead the Phillips incident seemed to accelerate things. Commander Robert K. Anderson, Navy spokesman on the deal, said the agreement had essentially been made before the U.S. ship was attacked.

Spike has been looking for a companion piece to one of its most popular series, “DEA,” which follows federal drug enforcers making

their rounds. 44 Blue, which makes action-oriented series like “Lockup” for MSNBC and “LA Gang Unit” for A&E, was the first of several producers who had contacted the Navy as reports of piracy began to surface.

Following the work of Navy personnel on this mission is the sort of action Spike craves, Levy said. The cable channel targets young male viewers aged 18 to 34, potentially making

“Pirate Hunters: USN” a strong recruiting tool for the Navy.

“That’s the Spike demographic and (recruiting) is a factor,” Anderson said. “We also have a responsibility to inform the American public about what we are doing.”

Spike will have access to dozens of Navy cameras along with its own for making the series, Drachkovitch said. Like similar reality series, it’s his job to find the characters and stories to focus upon.

It’s unclear what kind of access the production crew would have to confrontations similar to what happened with Phillips. It depends upon what the commanding officer is comfortable with, Anderson said.

“I’m sure if something like this happens, we’ll be at arm’s length until something like this is resolved,” Drachkovitch said. “But we hope to be able to get as good a seat as anybody else.”



This undated Phillips Family Photo shows Capt. Richard Phillips and his wife Andrea at a favorite spot near the Atlantic Ocean in Maine. Her husband was rescued on Sunday April 12, 2009, when U.S. Navy snipers shot and killed the three Somali pirates who were holding him at gunpoint. He escaped unharmed.

# 'Idol' star Simon Cowell says he isn't leaving yet

## Castroneves jury asks for transcripts in tax case

**MIAMI** (AP)—Jurors deliberating the fate of Brazilian race car driver Helio Castroneves and two others charged with evading U.S. taxes asked Monday for transcripts of testimony by two tax lawyers who were called by the prosecution to describe how Castroneves' finances were structured.

The request, which was granted by U.S. District Judge Donald Graham, followed a question Friday from jurors about a key aspect of tax law. The 12-person jury began deliberations Friday after six weeks of testimony and did not reach a verdict Monday. They will continue Tuesday.

Castroneves, a two-time Indianapolis 500 winner, his sister and business manager Katiucia Castroneves and Michigan lawyer Alan Miller each face more than six years in federal prison if convicted on conspiracy and tax evasion charges. Prosecutors say Castroneves failed to pay more than \$2.3 million in taxes between 1999 and 2004. Castroneves insists he is innocent and paid all the taxes he owed.

The jury's requests revolve around a U.S. tax doctrine known as constructive receipt. It says a person cannot avoid taxes by refusing to accept income that is ready to be paid.

Prosecutors say Castroneves owes taxes on \$5 million he was promised from Penske Racing even though he has never actually received the money, which still sits in a Dutch deferred compensation account.

The first jury question focused on the timing of a taxpayer's rights to income, which would affect when tax liability is triggered. Graham responded by reading the jurors a portion of U.S. tax law stating that liability begins when money is credited to the person's account, set aside or made available for withdrawal at any time.

The second question Monday asked for trial transcripts of testimony by New York tax attorneys Fred Feingold and Mark Berg, who were called by prosecutors to describe their roles in arranging Castroneves' finances.

Defense attorneys say Castroneves never had access to the Penske money and did not own a Panamanian company to which it was initially promised. Prosecutors contend Castroneves did own the Panama firm Seven Promotions.

Castroneves, who won TV's "Dancing With The Stars" competition in 2007, is also charged with failing to report as U.S. income sponsorship money he received from the Brazilian firm Coimex, taking improper tax deductions and failing to report as income clothing and airline tickets he received.



**NEW YORK** (AP)—Simon Cowell wants to look on the bright side concerning his future with "American Idol."

The famously acerbic Cowell says he still loves doing the Fox network show and he'll be staying put as judge at least another year. That's the time remaining on his contract.

Cowell earlier had sparked widespread speculation that he might be leaving "Idol." In an interview in England's Daily Mirror, he said he can't keep up his busy schedule indefinitely. Besides "Idol," Cowell has two British-based shows and other projects.

Even so, Cowell tells The Associated Press he is considering all options for the future and has come to no decision about how he might trim his workload.

In this Sunday, Feb. 22, 2009 file photo, Simon Cowell poses on the press line at the Elton John Academy Award viewing and after party in West Hollywood, Calif. AP

## Kanye West's arraignment delayed

**LOS ANGELES** (AP)—Kanye West's arraignment on misdemeanor charges has been delayed until May.

Lawyers for the rapper and his road manager were granted a delay to enter pleas until May 20 during a brief hearing Monday afternoon.

West, who is not required to attend, was scheduled to be arraigned on three misdemeanor charges filed as result of a scuffle with a paparazzo at Los Angeles International Airport on Sept. 11.

Video shot by celebrity gossip Web site TMZ showed West breaking a photographer's flash. His manager is accused of breaking the paparazzo's camera and TMZ's video camera.

West's attorney, Blair Berk, told a court commissioner that Monday was the first time she had been allowed to review the police report and she is waiting for prosecutors to turn over any additional evidence they have.

In this March 15, 2009 file photo, rapper Kanye West attends the Metropolitan Opera 125th anniversary gala at Lincoln Center, in New York. AP



## Stephen Colbert, Decemberists to face off again



**NEW YORK** (AP)—Stephen Colbert and his musical nemesis, the Decemberists, will face off again.

The Decemberists announced Monday that they will perform on Comedy Central's "The Colbert Report" on April 27.

Colbert and the band engaged in a mock feud in 2006 after Colbert accused the Decemberists of copying his idea of a fan-created "green screen challenge." The feud culminated in a much ballyhooed "ShredDown" in which Decemberists guitarist Chris Funk took on Colbert in a guitar solo contest.

Colbert claimed victory in one of the show's most star-studded episodes that featured Henry Kissinger, Morley Safer, Peter Frampton and former New York Gov. Eliot Spitzer.

In this Sept. 21, 2008 file photo, Stephen Colbert from Comedy Central's "The Colbert Report" is seen in Los Angeles. AP

## New Leno show to air on Boston NBC affiliate

**BOSTON** (AP)—Boston's NBC affiliate has decided to air Jay Leno's new show, after all.

WHDH-TV owner Ed Ansin issued a brief statement Monday saying that "upon further consideration," the station had decided to telecast Leno's 10 p.m. talk

show beginning in September.

WHDH had previously said it would run a local newscast in that time slot instead, prompting a threat from NBC to strip the station of its network affiliation.

Ansin said he enjoys Leno's humor and hopes the show is a

big success. Leno is a native of Andover, Mass.

NBC TV Network President John Eck said in a statement Monday the network was "very pleased" with WHDH's decision, calling Leno "one of the most bankable stars in the business."

## Woman's lie ends her affair, and may save her marriage

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN  
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

**DEAR ABBY:** I am trying hard to rebuild my marriage. My husband and I have three young children. Four months ago, I met a man (I'll call him "Jack") who made me feel like I haven't felt in a long time. We have not slept together. We tried several times to stop seeing each other, but unfortunately, my attraction to him was too strong.

This week my husband and I separated. I saw Jack this morning. Before things went too far I told him that I had herpes. Abby, he practically had a heart attack—and ended it on the spot!

The thing is, what I said wasn't true. I just could not think of another way to make him stop being available so I could concentrate on my marriage. I feel like such a coward, and I am heartbroken. Not only do I miss Jack terribly, I also can't bear the thought that someone who made me feel so happy would just turn his back on me.

Would there be any point in telling him that I lied, or did I do the right—albeit cowardly—thing?



*Dear Abby*

WAVERING IN THE SOUTH

**DEAR WAVERING:** I can see absolutely nothing positive to be gained by approaching Jack again. While I would never recommend lying, yours exposed the man's truth. If he truly cared about you, he would have stuck by you instead of heading for the exit. Consider yourself lucky to have learned the truth while there was still time to save your marriage.

■ ■ ■

**DEAR ABBY:** I am concerned about my younger brother. I'll call him "Freddy." Freddy is 18 and very lazy. His girlfriend lives with him at my mother's house.

Our mom is always cleaning their room. She does all the cooking and sometimes even launders their clothes. Mom tells me everything, and she's bothered by this. I live with her, too, but I do my share. I pay half the rent.

How can we let them know we are not their housekeepers, but in a nice way?

TOUCHY SUBJECT, LAS VEGAS, N.M.

**DEAR TOUCHY SUBJECT:** I, too, am concerned about your brother. It is time your mother realized that by allowing this arrangement, she has done her son no favors.

The girlfriend should not be living in his room rent-free. (Where the heck are her parents?) If she is a student, she should have a part-time job and contribute something—and so should Freddy. If he is old enough to have a live-in companion, he should be mature enough to clean up and do a load of laundry.

Your mother should convene a "family council" meeting and start assigning chores. Until and unless she becomes assertive enough to draw the line, she will continue to be taken advantage of. It's not about being mean or nasty. It's about encouraging Freddy to grow up and lessen his dependence upon her.

■ ■ ■

**DEAR ABBY:** I am asking this question in all seriousness. While I am using a restroom in a public place, I'm not sure how to respond when someone knocks on the door to see if anyone is there. What's the appropriate answer?

GOTTA GO IN WALDORF, MD.

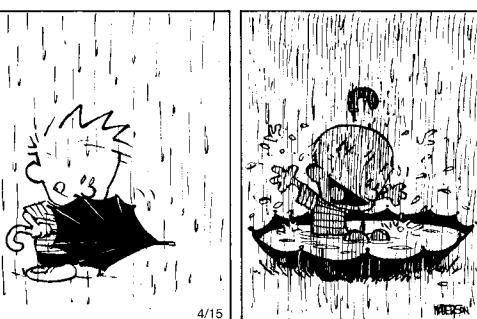
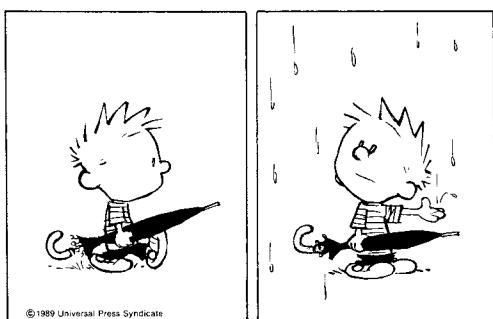
**DEAR GOTTA:** The correct response is, "Occupied!"

*Dear Abby* is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

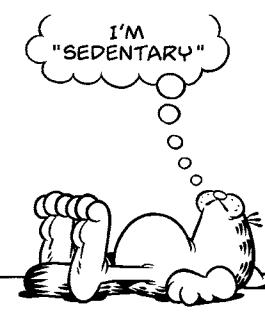
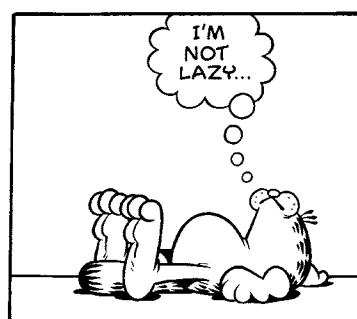
*What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents* is in "What Every Teen Should Know." To order, send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

# Pastimes

## Calvin and Hobbes



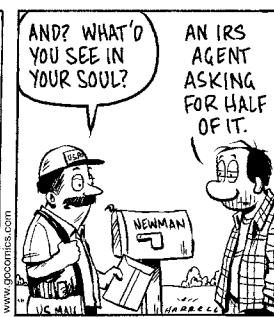
## Garfield®



By Jim Davis



## Adam@home

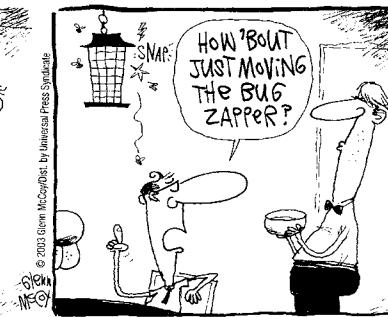


By Bryan Basset

## The Duplex



By Glenn McCoy



## CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

**ACROSS**

- 1 Book-keeper (Abbr.)
- 4 Harvest
- 8 "The Amazing —"
- 12 Clumsy sort
- 13 Beige
- 14 Vivacity
- 15 "CSI" evidence
- 16 Claim
- 18 Match
- 20 Attempt
- 21 Church service
- 24 Famous
- 28 Count
- 32 Un-clothed
- 33 Before
- 34 Berate
- 36 Zero
- 37 "Zounds!"
- 39 Pretend to be
- 41 Decorator's theme
- 43 Ice cream holder
- 44 Jungfrau, for one
- 46 Dutch cheese

**DOWN**

- 50 Specify as a condition
- 55 Rep. or Dem.
- 56 Aching
- 57 Bread spread
- 58 Choose
- 59 Sport
- 60 Hammer-head
- 61 Ultra-modernist
- 1 Last few notes
- 2 Hunger symptom
- 3 Some-where out there
- 17 Coffee
- 19 Ostrich's kin
- 22 Anatomical pouches
- 23 Unemotional



Yesterday's answer 4-15



For answers to today's crossword, call 1-800-226-5951 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

## STUMPED?

### CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:

Emma Watson, 19; Emma Thompson, 50; Claudia Cardinale, 71; Roy Clark, 76

**Happy Birthday:** You may have to take a back route this year if you want to get to your destination unscathed. Be very clear in your communications, don't promise more than you can deliver and be practical in all your partnerships. Don't give the impression that you can get something for nothing. Your numbers are 2, 12, 15, 21, 29, 38, 45

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19): Leave the talking to someone else. Anything you say will be held against you and will cause you grief. You have enough support to take care of any pressing matter. 2 stars

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20): The more you express your likes, dislikes, ideas and plans, the more support you will get and the closer you will come to making your dreams a reality. Don't miss an opportunity to pick up skills to enable you to earn and enjoy more. ★★★★

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 20): You may have some great ideas that can earn you some extra cash or help you win a settlement or contract. However, sharing what you want to do with too many people will work against you. Go it alone, using your own style and finesse. ★★★

**CANCER** (June 21-July 22): Have faith in what you do and how you do it. With a little imagination and positive confirmation, you can convince others to join a plan that allows you to pursue one of your dreams. ★★★

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Let go of any personal affront against yourself or a loved one. If you waste your time and burn your energy on revenge, you will miss out on an important opportunity. Enjoy the people you are with. The collective effort will pay off and bring you higher status. ★★★

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You'll experience lots of controversy because of meddling, arguments and disruption regarding your strategy and plans. Rethink something you did in the past and reverse a decision. Honesty is always the best policy. ★★★

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Don't let your emotions lead the way. Discuss your feelings and intentions regarding

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22): Listen to the arguments being made by others before you take a position. It will be the simplest of plans that will have the best outcome. Don't let anyone convince you that you have to do things in a extreme manner. ★★★

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Remain firm and stick to your plans, regardless of what anyone around you does. You can expect the unexpected from someone you've been dealing with regularly. An emotional issue can now be taken care of with positive results. ★★★★★

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Concentrate on your ideas and creative skills, as well as, your social life and the people who can help you advance. Trying to push your will on someone with whom you don't agree will not help resolve the issue. ★★★

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Let go of any personal affront against yourself or a loved one. If you waste your time and burn your energy on revenge, you will miss out on an important opportunity. Enjoy the people you are with. The collective effort will pay off and bring you higher status. ★★★

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20): Don't use force when all it will take is a simple, polite request to get your way. Let go of any aggressive feelings and avoid the unpredictable. Allow everyone a chance to do his or her own thing. ★★★

**Birthday Baby:** You are a thinker, a doer and a planner. You can see possibilities that others cannot. You are open, expressive and positive in your responses.

## EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

COPRIGHT 2007  
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

the direction of your personal and professional life. Taking on something you've thought about but never imagined you could pull off will be within your reach. 3 stars

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Expression of speech is a wonderful thing and you can use it to your advantage if you want to force necessary reforms. You will come up with some unusual methods that may not have been considered and will have a lasting effect on the situation. ★★★

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20): Don't use force when all it will take is a simple, polite request to get your way. Let go of any aggressive feelings and avoid the unpredictable. Allow everyone a chance to do his or her own thing. ★★★

**Birthday Baby:** You are a thinker, a doer and a planner. You can see possibilities that others cannot. You are open, expressive and positive in your responses.

Eugenia's Web sites: [astroadvice.com](http://astroadvice.com) for fun, [eugenialast.com](http://eugenialast.com) for confidential consultations

## SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

4	2									
5		7								
6		1	9							
	1		6	5						
	8			7	1					
5						2				
4	7		6		8					
	9					5				
5	2	3								
5	6	8	3	2	7	9	1	4		

Difficulty Level ★★★

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

## Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

7	5	6	2	1	9	4	8	3
2	4	3	8	7	6	1	5	9
8	1	9	5	3	4	2	7	6
6	8	1	7	4	3	5	9	2
3	9	5	6	8	2	7	4	1
4	7	2	1	9	5	3	6	8
9	3	7	4	6	1	8	2	5
1	2	4	9	5	8	6	3	7
5	6	8	3	2	7	9	1	4

Difficulty Level ★★★

## WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEM LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

LIVING WITH WEREWOLVES

Solution: 9 letters

E D T M C R B L Y C A O N A  
R L F A I U E U E W L N O N N  
A I A T L T R V R A O I T O T  
E W U P C E C S L N S H A I I  
F A T E Y E S I E I R T N T D  
L T F O C L B M V O S O S I O  
A E I S D O O W P R O W L T T  
T S H S D N U O H M A I B S E  
R N S Y E A M K L L V I F R S  
O U E H A O G L C E T L A E D  
M S P O R R U G O T H I C P N  
M M A P S F H S E L F A E U E  
I L H I H T G N E R T S I S G  
S I S O H P R O M A T E M R E  
C F C S E P O R H T N A C Y L

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4/15

Anthropomorphic, Antidotes, Beast, Bitten, Body, Burn, Claws, Curse, Cyclic, Dagger, Ears, Evil, Eyes, Face, Fear, Films, Full Moon, Gothic, Hair, Hounds, Howl, Immortal, Legends, Lycanthropes, Lycan, Metamorphosis, Pale, Phenomenon, Prowl, Ritual, Shapeshift, Silver, Strength, Superstition, Tail, Tales, Victim, Vision, Sunset, Wild, Woods

Yesterday's Answer: Possession

VO... 28 is here! To order, send \$5.95 each (US funds only) payable to Universal Press Syndicate plus \$3 postage for the first book order, \$1 pph for each additional book. Send to WONDERWORD, 1130 Walnut St., Kansas City, Mo. 64106 or call toll-free, 1-800-642-6480. Order online at upuzzles.com. (contains 43 puzzles, 9 of which are the larger, 20 x 20 size)

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# CLASSIFIED ADS



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235- NEWS

# Nuggets clinch division crown, home-court edge

**DENVER** (AP)—J.R. Smith's career-high 45 points and franchise-best 11 3-pointers helped the Denver Nuggets clinch the Northwest Division title and home-court edge in a playoff series for the first time in 21 years with a 118-98 win over the Sacramento Kings on Monday night.

With chants of "J.R." cascading from the rafters, Smith sank half of his 3s in the fourth quarter, when he scored 23 points.

The Nuggets (54-27) tied their franchise record for most wins since joining the NBA in 1976. They can break that mark with a victory in their regular-season finale Wednesday night at Portland.

Denver clinched at least the third seed in the Western Conference. The Nuggets would secure the No. 2 seed with a win at Portland or if Houston loses at Dallas on Wednesday night.

Either way, star Carmelo Anthony finally has the home-court advantage on his side as he tries to end five straight seasons of first-round exits by the Nuggets.

Anthony had 21 points, nine assists and nine rebounds in 32 minutes against Sacramento, which was led by Ike Diogu's career-best 32 points.

Anthony spent the fourth quarter cheering on Smith, who twice sank all three foul shots when he was hammered going for yet another 3-pointer.

Smith's 11 3-pointers—on 18 attempts—bested the franchise mark of nine set by Mahmoud Abdul-Rauf in 1995 and tied by Michael Adams in 1991. Smith's previous career high was eight, which he accomplished three times, including earlier this month against Utah.

Smith's previous career high for points was 43 at Chicago 14 months ago. His 45 points came despite playing just 29 1/2 minutes.

## Cavaliers 117, Pacers 109

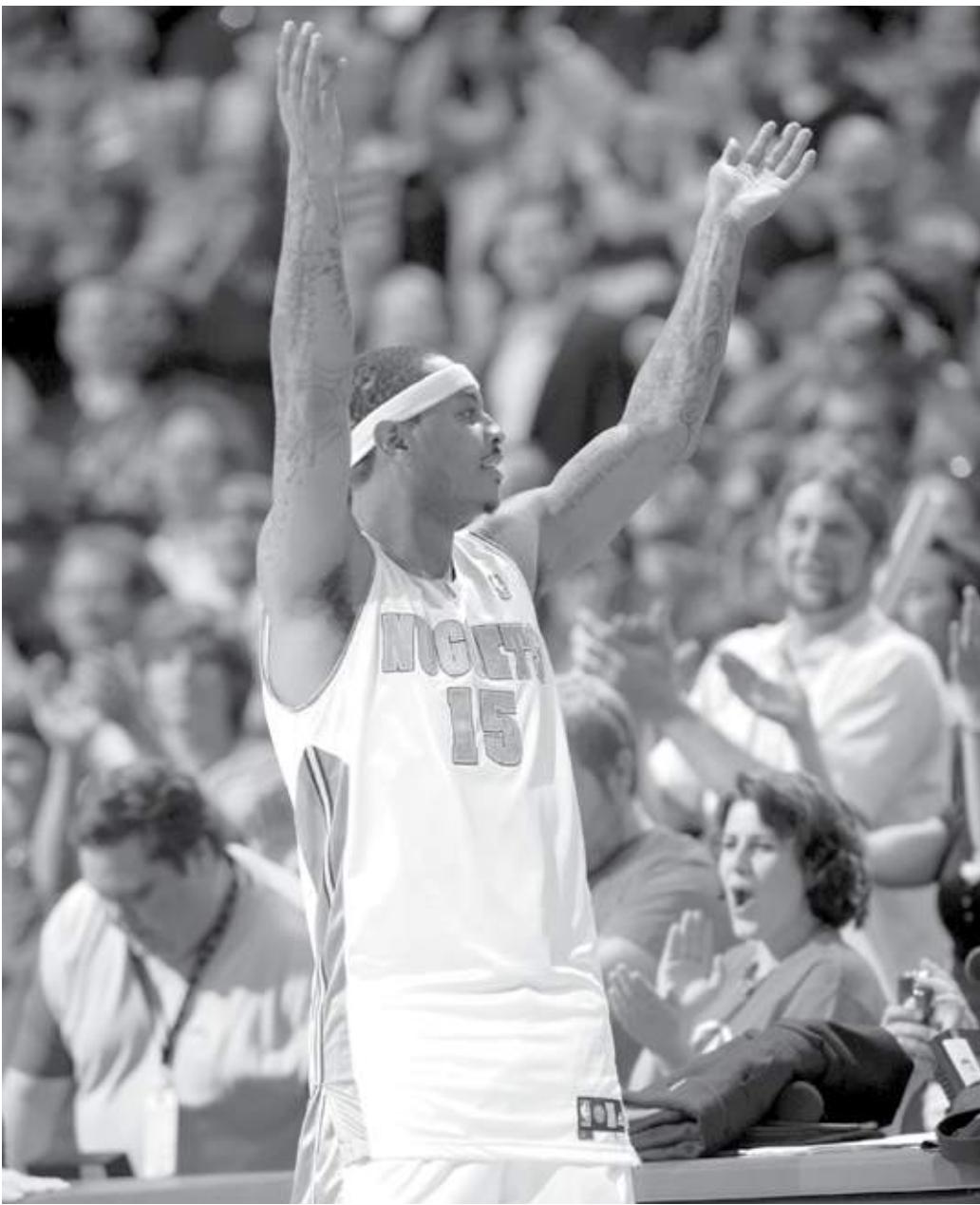
At Indianapolis, Cleveland clinched the NBA's best record and home-court advantage throughout the playoffs behind LeBron James' 37 points. Getting the home-court edge was especially important because Cleveland has a 39-1 record at home, the best in the league.

Delonte West scored 20 points, Mo Williams had 18 and Zydrunas Ilgauskas added 16 points and 10 rebounds for Cleveland, which won its fifth straight.

Danny Granger scored 38 points, rookie Brandon Rush scored 27 and Troy Murphy had 17 points and 13 rebounds for Indiana.

## Raptors 97, Wizards 96

At Washington, Chris Bosh made the go-ahead 3-pointer with 9.9 seconds left for the Raptors. Trailing 93-80 with



Denver Nuggets forward Carmelo Anthony celebrates as time runs out in the fourth quarter of the Nuggets' 118-98 victory over the Sacramento Kings in a NBA basketball game in Denver on Monday, April 13, 2009.

6:30 remaining, Toronto out-scored Washington 17-3 to pull off the win.

Bosh, who had 25 points and 15 rebounds, converted his first 3-pointer since March 6. It was his 42nd double-double of the season, tying his 2006-07 franchise high.

Shawn Marion had 25 points and 15 rebounds for the Raptors.

Caron Butler scored 28 points and Antawn Jamison had 23 for Washington in its 62nd loss. The Wizards must win on Wednesday in Boston to avoid tying their franchise record for losses, set in 2000-01 when they were 19-63.

## Nets 91, Bobcats 87

At East Rutherford, N.J., Jarvis Hayes hit two late 3-pointers in a 37-second span and the Nets rallied from a 12-point, fourth-quarter deficit.

Rookie Brook Lopez added 18 points and a career-best 20 rebounds, and Vince Carter had

five of his 19 points in the final 4:47 as New Jersey won its second straight, but only its fourth in 12 games. Hayes finished with 15 on 6-of-9 shooting.

Raymond Felton had 19

points for Charlotte in a game in which coach Larry Brown played four reserves with only one starter in both the second and fourth quarters, and it ended up costing the Bobcats in their third straight loss and sixth in seven games.

## Bulls 91, Pistons 88

At Auburn Hills, Mich., Ben Gordon made a tiebreaking layup with 15 seconds left, and the Bulls locked the Pistons in the No. 8 seed in the Eastern Conference.

The loss means the Pistons (39-42) will face Cleveland in the first round of the playoffs. Chicago (41-40) leads Philadelphia by a half-game for sixth.

Derrick Rose scored 11 of his 24 points in the fourth quarter and added a key defensive play

as the Bulls overcame a double-digit deficit in the second half. Gordon added 19.

Richard Hamilton led the Pistons with 25 points and Tayshaun Prince scored 19.

## Bucks 98, Magic 80

At Milwaukee, Richard Jefferson scored 24 points as the Bucks beat an Orlando team missing Dwight Howard and two other starters—Orlando's third straight loss to a subpar opponent.

Ramon Sessions added 19 points in the home finale for the Bucks, providing a late high note in what has otherwise been a disappointing season for Milwaukee.

Courtney Lee had 17 points for Orlando. Add in a potential wardrobe malfunction by Howard, who was not on the bench after halftime because he apparently was in violation of the NBA's dress code, and it was a rough night all around for the slumping Magic.

Twiss also said that reserve forward Leon Powe could return for one or both of the final regular-season games after missing the last 12 with a right knee injury.

Orlando was coming off losses to New York and New Jersey, giving up 100-plus points to a pair of non-playoff teams. Now locked into the No. 3 playoff seed in the Eastern Conference, Orlando was without starters Hedo Turkoglu and Rashard Lewis because of nagging injuries.

## Rockets 86, Hornets 66

At Houston, Yao Ming scored 22 points, Luis Scola grabbed 15 rebounds and the Rockets moved within one win of the Southwest Division title.

If the Rockets win their regular-season finale in Dallas on Wednesday, they'll secure their first division championship since 1993-94. But in the jumbled Western Conference, Houston could also slip to fifth place—and lose home-court advantage in the first round—with a loss to the Mavericks.

The Hornets shot 35 percent (28-of-81) from the field and their 66 points were a season low. Houston also held a 46-37 rebounding edge.

## Mavericks 96, Timberwolves 94

At Dallas, Dirk Nowitzki keyed a late fourth-quarter rally with great plays on both ends of the court, then Jason Terry hit an 18-foot jumper from the right side with 0.2 seconds left.

Dallas wiped out a 7-point deficit with 3:13 left to avoid a horrible loss. Besides the Timberwolves being headed to the lottery, the Mavericks knew the Hornets were getting drubbed in Houston. The win keeps alive their chances of claiming the No. 6 seed in the Western Conference.

That spot will be settled Wednesday night in the final game of the season. Dallas and New Orleans are tied and the Hornets hold the tiebreaker, so the only way the Mavs can move up is by beating Houston and by New Orleans losing at San Antonio.

Nowitzki scored 34 points and had nine rebounds.

## Jazz 106, Clippers 85

At Salt Lake City, Carlos Boozer had 20 points and 13 rebounds, and the Jazz snapped a three-game losing streak to keep alive their slim hopes of climbing out of the No. 8 seed in the West.

Utah closes the regular season Tuesday night at the top-seeded Lakers, the team the Jazz will face in the first round of the playoffs if they can't catch Dallas or New Orleans.

Deron Williams had 17 points and nine assists, and Paul Millsap finished with 19 points and 11 rebounds for the Jazz.

Marcus Camby had 17 points and 10 rebounds for the Clippers, who have lost

had 21 points as a last-minute starter and the Trail Blazers built a 35-point lead before defeating the Thunder. Brandon Roy had 20 points in Portland's fifth straight victory. Greg Oden had 16 points and nine rebounds.

Kevin Durant, averaging 25.5 points a game, scored just 10 for the Thunder, who have lost six of their last seven games. Rookie Russell Westbrook had 15 points and seven assists.

The Blazers, who have clinched their first postseason berth since 2002-03, are jockeying for playoff position down to the finish. They remained a game back of Denver in the Northwest Division, and Portland hosts the Nuggets in the season finale on Wednesday night.

The Blazers (53-28) have not won as many games since they went 59-23 in the 1999-2000 season.

## Suns 119, Grizzlies 110

At Phoenix, Shaquille O'Neal hit four late field goals and rookie Robin Lopez tied his career high with 14 points, helping the Suns to their eighth consecutive home victory.

In winning their 45th game of the season, the Suns became only the third team in NBA history to reach that total and not earn a playoff berth.

O'Neal led Phoenix's well-balanced attack with 19 points. Hakim Warrick, who hit his first 10 field goal attempts, tying a franchise record for one game, and Rudy Gay led Memphis with 26 points each.

Overall, the Suns had seven players in double figures. Steve Nash had 18 points and 12 assists, Richardson collected 18 points, Grant Hill scored 14, Matt Barnes 12 and Leandro Barbosa 10.

## Spurs 101, Warriors 72

At Oakland, Calif., Tony Parker scored 17 points and Tim Duncan added 16 points and 13 rebounds before both stars sat out the fourth quarter, and the Spurs kept pace with Houston atop the Southwest.

Drew Gooden had 20 points and 15 rebounds in his hometown for the Spurs, who won their third straight to pull even at 53-28 with the Rockets and Portland.

If Houston and San Antonio both win their regular-season finales on Wednesday, the Rockets will win a complex tiebreaker and get the No. 3 playoff seed, while San Antonio could end up starting the postseason on the road against the Trail Blazers unless Dallas knocks off Houston.

Anthony Randolph had career highs of 24 points and 16 rebounds, and C.J. Watson added 18 points for the Warriors, who had just seven available players. Injured guard Marco Belinelli again had to dress for the game just to give Golden State the NBA-minimum eight in uniform.

## Celtics to keep Garnett out until playoffs

**BOSTON** (AP)—Kevin Garnett will not play in the Celtics' two final regular season games, but remains on track for the start of the playoffs.

Garnett has missed 21 of the team's last 25 games due to a strained right knee.

Spokesman Jeff Twiss said

Monday that Boston coach Doc Rivers decided there was no point to bring back Garnett for two essentially meaningless games.

The Celtics are in Philadelphia, where they will play the 76ers on Tuesday night. They return to Boston on Wednes-

day to close out the regular season against the Washington Wizards.

Twiss also said that reserve forward Leon Powe could return for one or both of the final regular-season games after missing the last 12 with a right knee injury.

## Trail Blazers 113, Thunder 83

At Portland, Ore., Travis Outlaw

# Mets open Citi Field with a dud, losing to Padres



**NEW YORK (AP)**—  
Their new home was  
gorgeous. The Mets  
looked lost.

Jody Gerut christened Citi Field with a leadoff homer, Adrian Gonzalez also connected and the San Diego Padres spoiled New York's first regular-season game in its glittering new ballpark with a 6-5 victory Monday night.

Pedro Feliciano balked in the go-ahead run and the Mets made several key mistakes, opening Citi Field the same way they closed Shea Stadium: with a dud. Brian Stokes (0-1) was charged with the loss.

David Wright rallied New York from an early four-run hole with a tying homer, but it wasn't enough. Padres relievers Duaner Sanchez and Heath Bell, both former Mets, closed out the fifth straight win for surprising San Diego (6-2), expected to be one of baseball's worst teams this year.

Gerut's shot off Mike Pelfrey marked the first time in history that the first batter homered in a regular-season opener at a major league ballpark, according to the Elias Sports Bureau.

Edward Mujica (1-1) retired his only batter in the fifth for his first major league victory. Sanchez worked a perfect eighth and Bell pitched a 1-2-3 ninth for his fourth save.

## Phillies 9, Nationals 8

At Washington, Ryan Howard, Raul Ibanez and Shane Victorino homered to lead the mourning Phillies to the victory.

Longtime broadcaster Harry Kalas, whose baritone delivery and signature "Outta here!" home run calls provided the soundtrack to Philadelphia baseball for nearly four decades, died after collapsing in the broadcast booth before the game. He was 73.

## Dodgers 11, Giants 1

At Los Angeles, Orlando Hudson hit for the cycle, Andre Ethier drove in four runs with a pair of homers and Los Angeles won its home opener.

Randy Johnson lost at Dodger Stadium for the first time in his 22-year career, falling to 7-1 in just his second start in Los Angeles since 2004. He was denied his 296th career victory, although the 45-year-old left-hander earned his 4,800th strikeout in the third inning against James Loney.

## Cubs 4, Rockies 0

At Chicago, Ted Lilly held Colorado



A fan watches as a cat runs on the field during the New York Mets home opener baseball game against the San Diego Padres at the team's new stadium, Citi Field, in New York, Monday, April 13, 2009.

AP

hitless for 6 2-3 innings on a raw day at Wrigley Field and Chicago won its home opener by holding the Rockies to one hit.

Garrett Atkins grounded a clean single between shortstop and third on a 1-0 pitch in the seventh to end Lilly's no-hit bid. After Seth Smith followed the single with a walk, manager Lou Piniella removed Lilly (2-0). Angel Guzman, Aaron Heilman and Kevin Gregg completed the one-hitter.

## Pirates 7, Astros 0

At Pittsburgh, Zach Duke limited the struggling Astros to four hits in his third career shutout and Adam LaRoche homered during a five-run third inning.

Freddy Sanchez had three doubles, two of them starting run-scoring innings, and the normally slow-starting LaRoche had three hits as the Pirates won their home opener for the first time since 2004.

## Cardinals 2, Diamondbacks 1

At Phoenix, Brian Barden broke a tie with his first career home run, Albert Pujols also homered and St. Louis won its fifth straight.

With the game tied 1-all in the eighth, the righty-swinging Barden lined a 3-2 pitch from Doug Davis (0-2) over the fence in right field. It was the first homer in 51 big league at-bats for Barden, who briefly played for the Diamondbacks in 2007.

Harrison, cut four times earlier in his career, cashed in after being an NFL starter only two seasons. The 30-year-old Harrison was about to enter the final season of a \$5.5 million, four-year contract he signed as a backup in 2006. He would have made \$1.4 million this season.

"James is pleased he will be a Steelers for the rest of his NFL career, in all probability, which is what he wanted," said Bill Parise, Harrison's agent. "The contract is reflective of him being the defensive player of the year."

According to Parise, the contract is the largest signed by an NFL linebacker, although Harrison is not guaranteed of be-

## Ray 15, Yankees 5

At St. Petersburg, Fla., the Tampa Bay Rays raised the first division and league championship banners in franchise history, then went out and played like a team capable of getting back to the postseason.

Carlos Pena hit a second-inning grand slam and drove in six runs Monday night, helping Scott Kazmir beat Chien-Ming Wang and the New York Yankees 15-5 in the home opener for the AL champions.

## White Sox 10, Tigers 6

At Detroit, Jermaine Dye and Paul Konerko reached 300 career homers with consecutive drives in the second inning in the White Sox's third straight win.

Carlos Quentin went 4-for-4 with two homers and four RBIs for the White Sox. Dye went 3-for-5, and Konerko finished with four hits and three RBIs.

## Blue Jays 8, Twins 6

At Minneapolis, Travis Snider hit two home runs, including a go-ahead two-run shot in the eighth inning, and Toronto rallied to beat the Twins.

Lyle Overbay added a two-run homer for Toronto, which has beaten Minnesota 10 straight times since June 28, 2007. Adam Lind, Alex Rios and Scott Rolen each had three hits in a 19-hit attack for Toronto.

## Orioles 10, Rangers 9

At Arlington, Texas, Aubrey Huff went 4-for-5 with three of Baltimore's seven RBI singles, enough bloopers for the Orioles to beat the Texas Rangers 10-9 Monday night.

Baltimore went ahead to stay and chased Vicente Padilla (1-1) with five consecutive run-producing hits in the fourth inning that made it 7-4.

## Royals 4, Indians 2

At Kansas City, Mo., Zack Greinke extended his scoreless inning streak to 25 innings and the Royals held on to defeat the Indians.

Greinke (2-0) wiggled out of trouble for five scoreless innings. He departing after 104 pitches. Greinke has thrown 11 scoreless innings this season in winning his first two starts and has not allowed a run since the sixth inning on Sept. 13 at Cleveland.

## Athletics 8, Red Sox 2

At Oakland, Calif., Jason Giambi drove in two runs, Jack Cust and Nomar Garciaparra each homered and the Athletics handed Boston its fifth loss in six games.

Dallas Braden (1-1) pitched six solid innings as the Athletics ended a three-game losing skid. He allowed two runs on six hits, walking one and striking out three. Matt Holliday had three hits and drove in a pair of runs and Orlando Cabrera added an RBI single for the A's.

# All-Pro LB Harrison, Steelers reach new deal



**PITTSBURGH** (AP)—James Harrison isn't one of the NFL's biggest bargains any longer.

The Pittsburgh Steelers outside linebacker reached terms Monday on a \$51.75 million, six-year contract that will make him the second highest-paid player in franchise history.

The contract set to be announced Tuesday will pay the NFL Defensive Player of the Year a guaranteed \$20 million—more than any other player in team history except Ben Roethlisberger. The quarterback signed a \$102 million, eight-year contract last year that will pay him a guaranteed \$36 million.

Harrison broke into the Steelers lineup in 2007 and had 8 1/2 sacks. He had a Steelers-record 16 sacks in 15 games last season, and his 100-yard in-

terception return for a TD—the longest scoring play in Super Bowl history—helped the Steelers beat Arizona 27-23 for their second NFL championship in four seasons.

Harrison, cut four times earlier in his career, cashed in after being an NFL starter only two seasons. The 30-year-old Harrison was about to enter the final season of a \$5.5 million, four-year contract he signed as a backup in 2006. He would have made \$1.4 million this season.

"James is pleased he will be a Steelers for the rest of his NFL career, in all probability, which is what he wanted," said Bill Parise, Harrison's agent. "The contract is reflective of him being the defensive player of the year."

According to Parise, the contract is the largest signed by an NFL linebacker, although Harrison is not guaranteed of be-

ing paid the total value of the contract.

The Steelers made re-signing Harrison a priority—and, in a coincidence, his guaranteed money is about that Porter is getting after signing with Miami following the 2006 season. With Harrison ready to play, the Steelers felt they could not pay that kind of money to Porter, even after he helped them win the Super Bowl during the 2005 season.

Harrison and the Steelers began talking about a new contract not long after the Super Bowl was played and the deal was concluded before the Steelers officially begin their off-season workouts next week, although many players already are working out at their practice complex.

Harrison is the only undrafted player to win the Defensive Player of the Year award. He played at Kent State, the alma

mater of former Steelers All-Pro linebacker Jack Lambert, but was cut by the Steelers and Ravens and spent one spring playing in NFL Europe before finally landing a job with Pittsburgh in 2005.

Harrison turns 31 next month, so it is unlikely he will play for the entire length of a contract that runs through the 2014 season.

The Steelers also have re-signed backup linebackers Andre Frazier, Keiron Fox and Arnold Harrison since the season ended. They have not signed any major free agents from other teams, but have reached new deals with Harrison and left guard Chris Kemoeatu, who will make \$20 million over five seasons. Like Harrison, Kemoeatu moved into the Steelers' lineup after an All-Pro player—Alan Faneca, now of the Jets—signed with another team.

## Kansas stars Collins, Aldrich staying put



**LAWRENCE**, Kan. (AP)—Sherron Collins and Cole Aldrich are staying at Kansas, passing up a chance to play in the NBA for the opportunity to make the Jayhawks a leading national title contender in 2010.

The Jayhawks will return every major contributor from this year's Big 12 championship team and will be joined by one of the best recruiting classes coach Bill Self has brought to Kansas.

Collins and Aldrich announced their decision Monday night to cheer from several hundred fans at the annual Jayhawks awards dinner.

"I can't wait till next year, when we go for another ring," said Aldrich, who played as a freshman on Kansas' 2007-08 national championship team.

"That does mean you're coming back next year, right?" Self said.

"As long as you don't throw me under the bus," responded Aldrich.

Collins, a 5-foot-11 point guard, averaged 18.9 points and five assists this past season as a junior.

The 6-foot-11 Aldrich averaged 14.9 points and 11.1 rebounds as a sophomore. If Aldrich had declared for the draft, he might have been a lottery pick.

"I do think we return the best guard in the country and the best big man in the country," said Self. "I think if you're going to start a team, why not have an anchor and why not have a guard?"

With Collins and Aldrich bursting into stardom, the Jayhawks were a surprising 27-8 last season, winning a fifth straight Big 12 regular-season title and reaching the round of 16 before losing to eventual national runner-up Michigan State in the NCAA tournament.

Aldrich and Collins both said the decision to say was so easy that they didn't even ask Self to explore a level of interest that NBA teams might have, a common practice of undergraduates who are thinking of jumping to the pros early.

"I've known for a while," said Aldrich, who had the sixth triple-double in NCAA tournament history. "It's been a blast of a year and the fans are so fun here. I was watching highlights on my computer back in my room and I got goose bumps. I was like, 'I've got to come back here.'"

He said his parents urged him to come back even though his father, a construction worker, has been out of work for some time because of the economic slowdown.

Aldrich's patience should pay big dividends for Self's squad.

"Those two together mean at least 12 victories," said Self, the AP coach of the year. "We could still be competitive because those young kids are going to get better."

## A TRIUMPHANT

**From Page 28**

eton. I was down to almost 80 lbs., he said.

### Rays of hope

Fighting against time, the doctors at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center started treating Johnson's pneumonia first, as this was causing the fast deterioration of his immune system more than the leukemia.

"There was a point when for 21 straight days I was in isolation because despite the medications and tests, they still didn't know if what I had was still communicable at that time," said Johnson.

"But one thing is or sure, I had the type of pneumonia [Burkholderia Cepacia] that has an 80 percent fatality rate," he added.

Burkholderia Cepacia is a group of bacteria discovered by Walter Burkholder of Cornell University in 1949. They are found in soil and water that are often resistant to common antibiotics. *B. cepacia* poses little medical risk to healthy people. However, people who have certain health problems, such as a weakened immune system or chronic lung disease, are more susceptible to infection.

Then doctors found the

right antibiotic treatment for the pneumonia and after three months of painstaking treatment, Johnson slowly showed some improvement.

"I was gaining weight and when I looked at the mirror, I could now recognize my old self," he said.

Doctors gave him another three months to regain his strength, which was needed to begin the treatment for leukemia.

### Weak spirit, but strong body

When Johnson was told his borrowed time would end if his condition does not improve, sports was one of the things that made him believe he could conquer his sickness.

"All my life I have been into sports competitions. I played baseball first when I was 12. I played American football when I was in high school, then basketball, and soccer. In the Navy, I returned to football. Here, I play tennis, badminton, and basketball. After 39 years of being a merchant marine I retired and playing various sports became my avocation," said the former merchant marine captain.

But he added there were occasions when after receiving treatment, which include having needle shots and chemotherapy, he thought of giving up.

"It was very painful, emotionally and physically. There were two times that I thought I should let go. After I received treatment, I was put into sedation, and I was ready to fall asleep, forever," Johnson.

"But I would wake up. My spirit was weak, but my body would not give up. Doctors said I am fortunate that my body could take all those toxic medicine they were using to kill the cancer cells. If it would not have been to sports, to being active, I don't know if I would be able to speak in front of you and tell you what I and my family had been through," he added.

After three months of treating the cancer cells with a new kind of immunotherapy called *monoclonal antibodies therapy*, Johnson was free of leukemia with no remission.

*Monoclonal antibodies therapy* is the use of *monoclonal antibodies* to specifically target cells. The main objective is stimulating the patient's immune system to attack the malignant tumor cells and prevent the growth of tumor by blocking specific cell receptors. A *monoclonal antibody* is a laboratory-produced molecule that's carefully engineered to attach to specific defects in cancer cells. *Monoclonal antibodies* mimic the antibodies the body naturally produces as part of the immune

system's response to germs, vaccines, and other invaders.

### Supportive family, compassionate medical staff

"While I was slowly dying here and wasn't able to fight, my wife [Delia] fought for me. She argued with doctors here about my worsening condition and wisely sought help outside" Johnson said.

In March 2007, Delia accompanied Ed to Pennsylvania. Daughter Melody later joined them.

"When Delia needed to be away, Melody was there, talking to nurses, asking if I had been given medication on time. She became my mother, my protector, my angel," Johnson said.

Melody was about 12 when the Johnson family moved to the mainland. Ed expected their daughter would be shattered with their ordeal, but she did not. Melody became stronger and responsible at her young age.

"In more than a year of fighting leukemia and pneumonia, my daughter grew before my eyes. I had never expected her to mature that quickly. I would have understood if she will cry a lot and be lonely because of that we were going through. But she is tough," Ed said.

"If it would not have been to my daughter and my wife and

their unconditional and untiring love and support, I would be gone," the elder Johnson said.

Several schools and many friends on Saipan also offered prayers while Johnson was away fighting for dear life.

"It is so humbling that so many people offered their thoughts and prayers for my recovery," he said.

Johnson thanked the staff of University of Pittsburgh Medical Center and Asian Medical Center in the Philippines, too, for showing care and compassion during his treatment and recovery.

He also acknowledged CHC's kind and dedicated nurses, who made up for the disappointment he felt after getting an unsympathetic treatment from a doctor.

"When you are sick and dying, the least you need was an insensitive doctor. I remember in one of my visits at CHC, the doctor shouted at me and told me to hurry up. I was very weak and could barely stand from my seat and he told me to get inside quickly because he had a lot of patients waiting," Johnson said.

"In the Philippines and in Pennsylvania, I was under the care of kindhearted doctors and medical staff. Because of them, my family, and friends' prayers, I am back on Saipan, and celebrating and enjoying life, again," he said.

## HYATT

**From Page 28**

first four points to spark Hyatt's amazing championship performance.

He scored nine points in the first quarter and finished the game with 15.

Arreza made four in the second quarter and nine in the fourth, while Lizama and Yamamoto added nine points each.

Hyatt had a 23-15 lead after the opening quarter but it was in the second that it pulled away with a 22-point lead, scoring 44 against Aqua Resort's 17.

Cruz continued to shred the defense of Aqua by scoring eight, while Yamamoto and Ar-

reza had four in a 16-4 blast, as Hyatt erected its biggest lead of 27 points, 89-62, with four minutes to go in the fourth period.

Other members of the champion team are Bruce Berline, Frank Crisostomo, Dexter Dilay, Kiem Eina, Yosh Gabaldon, Gino Libuw, Arman Magno, Nathaniel Mateo, Edmark Mendoza, Michael Umali, Bobby Vargas, and Joel Villanueva.

Kevin Fitial, who won the Best in Defense award, led Aqua Resort with 24. Gil Gapor and Gyles Ruluked added 12 apiece, while Glen Aquino came up with nine.

It was the worst game for Aqua Resort in the inaugural season of the Tinian caging. In fact, the Achugao-based hotel

won over Hyatt during their preliminary match-up.

Both are looking forward to meeting in the finals again in June for the upcoming HANMI Cup basketball league.

The two teams' championship rivalry dates back to 2006 during the inaugural season of HANMI with Aqua Resort winning the title.

In Tinian, Hyatt was ranked first after the single-round robin elimination phase with its 4-1 record, while Aqua Resort finished in second place with a 3-2 slate.

Hyatt advanced to the finals after beating Pacific Islands Club, 96-92, while Aqua Resort defeated Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan/Saiyan Grand Hotel, 97-92.

Earlier in the day, PIC settled

for the third place plum, as it dashed a spirited comeback attempt by Fiesta/Grand, which erased an 18-point deficit, but ran out of gas at the end.

Ryan Sanciangco scored 48 points to lead PIC past Fiesta/Grand. Darwin Barbo added 21.

Later in the night, players and fans held a barbecue party before the awarding ceremony led by Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino general manager Tom Liu and officers of Club TDHC that included Noel Sabordo (president), Kiri Jackson (vice president), and Arceli Funtanar (secretary).

Liu expressed appreciation to participants and organizers for a successful conduct of the league while Club TDHC promised a better tournament next year.

nothing but the bottom of the net, giving the CNMI Nationals a 90-89 lead. Iguel then missed the second free throw and Pelisamen grabbed the rebound, with 12 seconds left on the clock.

Two Nationals defenders temporarily harassed Pelisamen from backcourt, before he was able to get the leather to Gabriel White. White dribbled to mid-court and looked at the clock, which read at six seconds. He then threw a pass to Renguil, who was left momentarily open for the game-winning jumper, as the Nationals had only Allen Moses at their last line of

defense. Moses was hesitant to go after Renguil, as the latter could still make an extra pass to Peter Camacho on the opposite wing. When Moses finally decided to come closer to Renguil, the Ol'Aces shooter had already released the ball for the winning basket.

Renguil nailed the jumper with one second left in the game and there was no way the Nationals could put up a decent shot.

It was a sorry loss for the Nationals, who led by as much as 20 points in the second quarter, 36-16.

Ol'Aces had a slow start and were behind by 15 at the end

of the first quarter, 9-24. They moved within nine at halftime, 39-48, behind the efforts of Camacho and Pelisamen. The duo continued to lead Ol'Aces' offense and they seized control of the game in the third quarter, 68-61.

Ol'Aces led by as much as nine in the fourth, 78-69, before Iguel, Joemary Tumaquip, and Marvin Rabauliman anchored a Nationals' comeback and took an 88-83 advantage, going into the last two minutes of the game.

But the Nationals failed to sustain their momentum and allowed Renguil to save the day for Ol'Aces. The Nation-

Gardner, Takahiro Ogasawara, and Taro Shirato will be joining forum where they will be asked various questions on training, diet and racing.

Briefing for the Tagaman race will be held at PIC beginning at 5pm on April 23 and on April 24, all the participants will be joining a Carbo Loading Dinner at the PIC.

als played without Jericho Cruz, who was on Tinian suiting up for Hyatt in a championship game against Aqua Resort Club.

Ol'Aces will square off with Diamond tonight for the right to face Docomo in the finals on Friday.

**Ol'Aces 91 – P. Camacho 36, Pelisamen 28, White 7, Rangamar 6, Renguil 6, Olaitaman 4, Omar 4.**

**CNMI Nationals 90 – Iguel 34, Rabauliman 24, Tumaquip 11, Johnson 9, Charlton 7, Moses 3, White 2.**

**Scoring by quarters:** 9-15, 48-39, 68-61, 91-90.

The Tagaman triathlon will start at 6am on April 25 at the PIC.

Other activities on the same day, would be the Taga Kids, organized by Mel Daly and Tina Goodwin.

There will be a post race party at the PIC later in the evening and the final kickoff party will be at the Obyan Beach.

## OL' ACES

**From Page 28**

to a face-off with Diamond Auto Care, while the loss eliminated the pennant champion Nationals.

The game-winning sequence started with Freddie Pelisamen collaring a rebound off Pete Iguel's missed second free throw.

Iguel stepped onto the 15-foot line for a pair of free throws, as he drew a foul from Renguil after the former got a rebound off an Elias Rangamar's missed undergoal stab.

Iguel had no problems with the first charity, as the ball hit

nothing but the bottom of the net, giving the CNMI Nationals a 90-89 lead. Iguel then missed the second free throw and Pelisamen grabbed the rebound, with 12 seconds left on the clock.

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defense. Moses was hesitant to go after Renguil, as the latter could still make an extra pass to Peter Camacho on the opposite wing.

On April 22, there will be the Xterra Hash, with the trail to be set-up by Wolf Kramden and Bobbi Ciega.

Pro triathletes that include Renata Bucher, Jim McConnel, Andrew Noble, Mike Vine, Sam

ride on April 21. Participants will meet at upper parking lot of the Palms Resort at 7pm for the two-hour ride.

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## XTERRA

**From Page 28**

Micro Beach Compound and at 7pm there will be a cocktail party at the Pacific Islands Club.

Saturday's main event, the Xterra Saipan Championship, will start at 6:30am.

But participants are reminded

## TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

### NBA STANDINGS

#### EASTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
y-Boston	60	20	.750	-
x-Philadelphia	40	40	.500	20
New Jersey	34	47	.420	26 1/2
Toronto	32	49	.395	28 1/2
New York	31	50	.383	29 1/2

#### Central Division

z-Cleveland	66	15	.815	-
x-Chicago	41	40	.506	25
x-Detroit	39	42	.481	27
Indiana	35	46	.432	31
Milwaukee	34	47	.420	32

#### Southeast Division

<table border

# Spring Break Youth Volleyball Festival

PHOTOS By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.



Technical official Jonas Barcina, right, joins the members of champion team Vacos as they receive their trophies in the 18-and-under division of the one-day event last Saturday.



Two champion teams Dandan (12-and-under boys) and Tottot (12-and-under girls) savor the moment as they pose for a photo.



Frondalee Tito of Vacos smashes the ball against a couple of Ayuyu blockers.



Jacque Wonenberg of two-time champion Powerpuffs in action during the championship game of the 18-and-under girls against Alatal Juicy.



Receiving their trophy are members of 14-and-under boys runner-up Hilitai, the deposed champion.



Three players of 18-and-under third place O'l'Aces get their trophy.



Members of 18-and-under division runner-up Ayuyu also celebrate with organizers Derron Flores, Jonathan Tenorio, and Jonas Barcina.



The WPS boys also share the moment of glory after winning the 12-and-under title.



The Starz settle for third place after an impressive showing in the pre-liminary rounds.



Whispering Palms School girls players smile to the camera as they receive their 12-and-under champions trophy.



## Nuggets clinch division crown, home-court edge

J.R. Smith's career-high 45 points and franchise-best 11 3-pointers helped the Denver Nuggets clinch the Northwest Division title and home-court edge in a playoff series for the first time in 21 years with a 118-98 win over the Sacramento Kings on Monday night. **24**

# Saipan Tribune Sports

**28** WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15, 2009

## Mets open Citi Field with a dud, losing to Padres

Their new home was gorgeous. The Mets looked lost. **25**



SAIPAN TRIBUNE



By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
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REPORTER

**T**here are a lot of angles for this article, but not to choose the "triumphant return to life" would be an injustice to Ed Johnson, who lived to tell his story.

Johnson is back on Saipan after his successful fight against leukemia and in less than a month of being on the island, he quickly returned to

action through the doubles event in the PIC tennis tournament.

He warmed up for the PIC netfest by playing badminton at least twice week and is mulling playing basketball, again. Biking and swimming are also part of his physical rehabilitation.

In case you asked how old is he? The answer is 72 years old.

About three years ago, a doctor at the Commonwealth Health Center told Johnson that

"he could never recover to be active, again."

### Start of ordeal

In early part of 2006, Johnson was diagnosed with leukemia with complications of pneumonia. Despite several months of returning to the Commonwealth Health Center, his condition did not improve.

"I was dying every day," Johnson said.

Having seen enough, his family decided to bring him to the Philippines, where Johnson's condition improved a bit, but still he had to go to Pennsylvania for a better and thorough treatment.

Johnson was admitted to the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center under the care of Dr. Nicholas Cook.

"When the doctor saw me and after running several tests, he said I had three days to three weeks to live if things will not change," Johnson said, adding he had lost weight terribly.

"I was close to being a skel-

See A TRIUMPHANT on Page 26

## Ol' Aces nip Nationals

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
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REPORTER



Junior Renguil canned a pull-up jumper with the clock winding down to lift Ol' Aces to a backbreaking 91-90 playoff win over the CNMI Nationals in the 2009 BANMI/Budweiser Basketball League Monday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The victory moved Ol' Aces

See OL' ACES on Page 26



Ed Johnson, seen here getting ready to serve during a doubles tournament early this month, is back on his feet after recovering from leukemia.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

## XTERRA University kicks off Saipan Sports Fest today

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.  
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REPORTER

The 2009 Saipan Sports Fest kicks off today with the Xterra University activities at the Micro Beach where experts will give neophytes the proper tips in running a triathlon.



Participants will be given introductory courses for the three triathlon events in swimming, mountain bike, and marathon starting at 2:30pm.

The 2009 Saipan Sports Fest is organized by Taga, Inc. in association with the Marianas Visitors Authority, and sponsored by DFS Galleria, Coca-Cola, Subway, IT&E, Glimpses of Saipan, Fore-

most, Docomo Pacific, Marpac, and Northwest Airlines.

Yesterday, Xterra Saipan and Tagaman hopefuls attended a meeting at the Capital Hill Post Office and visited several portions of the Xterra Saipan Championship to be held this Saturday.

Another activity today will be the Tank-2-Tank swim at 12pm at the beach near Saipan World Resort. There will also be another one of this type on Friday and Monday at the same venue and on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday next week.

Also on April 17, the Xterra 5K and 10K trail runs will start at 5pm at the

See Xterra on Page 26



NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.

Players and supporters of Hyatt Regency Saipan celebrate as they receive the perpetual and champion trophy from Club TDHC president Noel Sabordo, standing fifth from right, moments after hammering out a 100-75 victory over Aqua Resort Club in the finals of the Inaugural Budweiser Tinian Dynasty Invitational Inter-Hotel Basketball League.

## Hyatt routs Aqua in TDHC cage finals

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.  
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REPORTER

**TINIAN**—Hyatt Regency Saipan won the championship of the Inaugural Budweiser Tinian Dynasty Invitational Inter-Hotel Basketball League after dominating the title game that drew



a jam-packed crowd Monday night at the Tinian Municipal Gymnasium.

The winner-take-all finals was expected to be a slam-bang affair, but Hyatt controlled the game from the get-go and defeated a

visibly overmatched Aqua Resort Club team, 100-75.

National player Jericho Cruz scattered 30 points and was easily chosen the best player of the championship game. He also snatched the most valuable player plum of the season.

Cruz said they were optimistic

coming into the game, but they did not expect it to be so easy.

Aside from Cruz, Hyatt also drew big games from Bernard Aquino, Chris Arreza, Jack Lizama, and Hiro Yamamoto.

Aquino, who won the best in assists award, scored the game's

See HYATT on Page 26